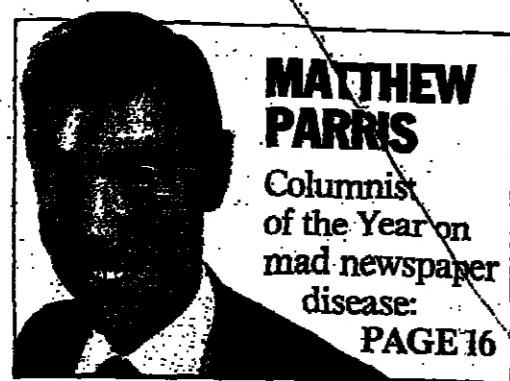


THE TIMES

No. 65,542



MATTHEW PARRIS

Columnist
of the Year on
mad newspaper
disease:

PAGE 16

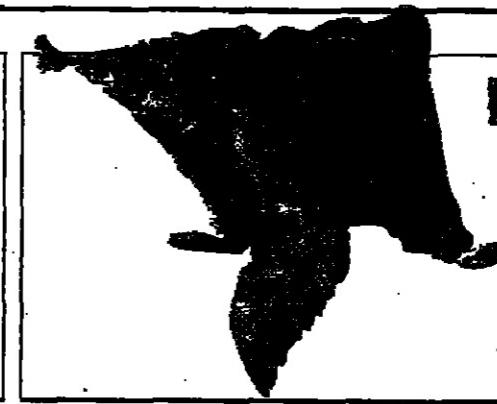
GARDENING

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12 PAGES OF SPORT

Manchester United
and Liverpool go
through to the Cup final:
Grand National
and the Brazilian
Grand Prix



HOW LIFE BEGAN

The moment when
animals took off to
conquer the air:
Part 1 of Richard
Dawkins's new book

PAGE 14

MONDAY APRIL 1 1996

30P

Clarke offered referendum deal

Major tries to heal rift as fears grow that Chancellor could quit

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR is preparing for a showdown this week with Kenneth Clarke over plans for a referendum on a single currency.

The meeting will come amid deepening anxiety in senior Tory circles that the Chancellor might resign if his strongly held objections are overruled. Either today or tomorrow, Mr Major will offer Mr Clarke a deal intended to swing him behind the firm view in Downing Street and Conservative Central Office that a referendum pledge is essential.

The Prime Minister will promise a serious Cabinet rift. Mr Major,

plebiscite, he will ensure that in any national campaign Cabinet ministers do not then argue against a single currency. But Mr Major's efforts to resolve the three-week impasse have been complicated by Michael Heseltine's reluctance to side with the Cabinet majority in favour of a referendum.

The referendum argument, sparked off by Mr Major's Commons announcement on March 7 that the proposal was under seri-

ous consideration, has opened up a

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, are pitted against Mr Clarke. Mr Heseltine and John Gummer, the Environment Secretary.

The Prime Minister wants the matter settled at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting in time for an announcement before the Easter recess. But he will not risk another bout of open Cabinet warfare if he cannot secure private assurances from Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine

that they will support his compromise of a referendum tied to collective Cabinet responsibility. Mr Major is prepared to delay and risk the wrath of pro-referendum ministers.

Mr Rifkind's paper on the wider implications of a referendum will not be circulated to Cabinet ministers until the Prime Minister is confident of an agreement.

Insiders are divided over how seriously to take the threat of a resignation by Mr Clarke. Senior ministers said yesterday that it

would be "incredible" for him to quit because he did not want to give the British people the final say over the pound.

Close associates of the Prime Minister also played down the threat, saying that while Mr Clarke was "taking the argument to the edge", Mr Major was determined to avoid provoking a walkout and would play for time.

But one source said that a "Mexican stand-off" had developed between the Chancellor and the Prime Minister. The risk was that

Mr Clarke might take his opposition to a referendum to such lengths that he might feel he could only maintain his credibility by resigning.

It is understood that the Chancellor has told the Prime Minister that conceding a referendum would be a surrender to the Eurosceptics. A source said: "He thinks we would be giving into Teresa [Gorman]. But this should not be seen as a game in which we are agreeing with a group of MPs in the House. We are listening to the party at

large and the vast majority of the British electorate."

Yesterday, Sir Teddy Taylor, one of the former Whips, Tory Euro-rebels, said that Mr Clarke should not be allowed to stand in the way of backing for a referendum.

"Mr Clarke should really be dumped in the Thames for this because it is not fair to carry on Cabinet battles in the press," the Southend East MP said on GMTV's *Sunday Programme*.

The referendum is the way. And I don't think that Mr Clarke is the kind of person with a big personal following. My feeling is that he will go along with it."

Leading article, page 17

Water giants will have to compete for customers

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND GRAHAM SERJEANT

FAR-REACHING plans to cut bills and improve services to water consumers will be announced by the Government today. They are designed to smash the monopoly enjoyed by the ten giant regional water companies and end pay, perks and profits excesses that have tarnished the privatisation image.

The plan to inject competition into the industry will initially benefit big industrial users of water. But ministers intend that in a few years domestic customers will be able to buy their water from a range of companies.

They see their proposals as a conclusive answer to the "fat cats" controversies over pay rises for the directors of privatised water companies. By creating a genuinely free market, ministers believe bosses will have to moderate their salaries and share deals.

One senior ministerial source said yesterday that the plan would help to neutralise Labour attacks. "The issue should be privatisation versus nationalisation, not sleaze versus nationalisation."

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, will announce the shake-up today. The Government intends to bring in legislation later in the year to allow "common carriage" under which competing suppliers would have access to local pipe networks. It is understood that plans for a national water grid, linking all reservoirs and rivers, have been ruled out as too expensive.

But ministers see scope for more modest tie-ups in which

pipelines could be constructed between neighbouring reservoirs. The water in customers' taps would come from their local company but the bill would come from the one with the supply contract. Companies would sell water to one another to meet orders.

The shake-up was foreshadowed by John Major in his speech to Tory activists in Harrogate at the weekend. He said that privatisation had cut prices in telephones, electricity and gas—all industries where competing firms use a common national network.

This has not happened in the water industry—yet. But it will. We're going to introduce competition into the water industry as well," he said.

Since the water industry was privatised in 1989, household bills have soared almost as fast as the pay of the directors of the ten biggest companies. Total profits currently stand at a record £1.6 billion a year.

Last January, Labour disclosed that 25 water company directors became at least £500,000 better off as a result of privatisation—including five millionaires.

In August, Ofwat, the regulator, said that the average family was paying £211 for its water, up from £119 at privatisation. Shareholder payouts had increased at four times the rate of inflation. Taxable profits rose by almost 150 per cent. Northumbrian Water's profits increased 804 per cent.

Until now, competition has had little impact. New suppliers had to put in their own pipelines. Quality varied widely, but much of the £15 billion invested after privatisation has been used to bring all supplies up to minimum standards.



Rough Quest, the first favourite in 14 years to win the Grand National, was the toast of Bear Green, Surrey, yesterday when he was paraded before a delighted crowd outside his stables by his trainer, Terry Cassey (left), and his jockey, Mick Fitzgerald. Race report: page 29

Oxford 'at risk from outdated methods'

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

OXFORD University's ancient structure is threatening its place as a world-beating academic centre, management consultants have said in a report recommending sweeping changes.

Proposals designed to speed up decision-making and give outsiders a voice in the university's affairs have been presented to a Commission of Inquiry, which is due to report before the year's end. The consultants' plan would bring the first major change in Oxford's system of government for 30 years.

The two management consultants from Coopers & Lybrand make a series of stinging criticisms. They say the university's international reputation for research is in jeopardy, there is no stimulus for change in the curriculum and few dons understand the way the university works.

"Many noted how much

Continued on page 2, col 3

Oxford elite, page 7

Railtrack: Let the car take the strain

By OLIVER AUGUST

EMPLOYEES of Railtrack are to be told today that using the train is putting a strain on its finances and that in future they should travel by road when on business.

A memo to all 11,000 employees states that rail travel may not be the cheapest option, especially when going to remote areas. When travelling in groups a hire car or taxi is often more economical.

Employees of Railtrack will only be able to travel free by rail during emergencies or to get to the scene of an accident.

Staff joining Railtrack from

enjoyed free passes as well as quarter-price tickets for their families. Executives, however, will retain some benefits such as first-class passes for business and private journeys.

Train journeys are no longer free for us, so we want the staff to think about it before they start. Some journeys are just too time-consuming by road and often it is cheaper for a group of employees travelling together to hire a car,"

Employees of Railtrack will only be able to travel free by rail during emergencies or to get to the scene of an accident.

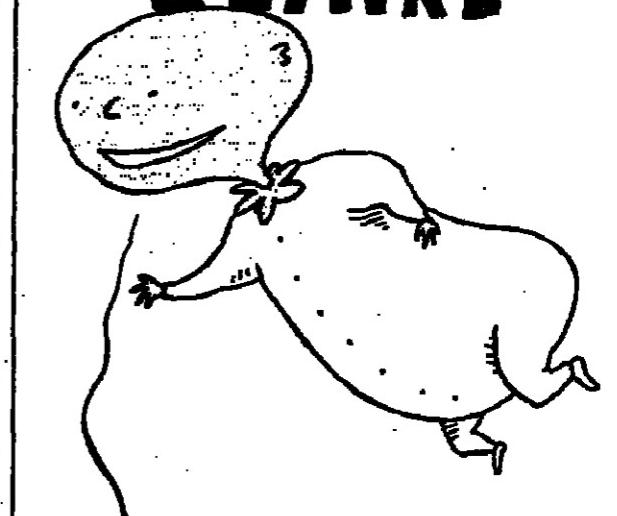
Staff joining Railtrack from

railways. Brian Wilson, Vabour's transport spokesman, said it was a "breach of assurances given during passage of the Railways Act through Parliament".

Continued on page 2, col 3

Railways, page 7

The WORLD of OLIVER & CLAIRE



THERE'S AN APRIL FOOL'S ADVERTISEMENT...

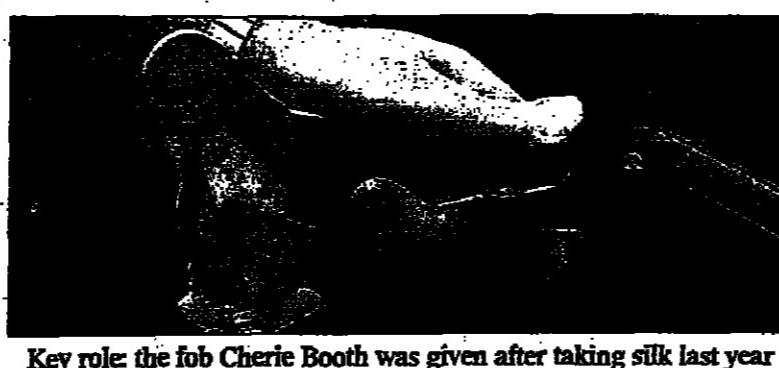
New QCs invited to be plastic personalities

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS say it is the pinnacle of their career. The day they become a Queen's Counsel is a traditional rite of passage that brings status and wealth. Now, the moment can be preserved for posterity—in plastic.

New QCs, rigged out in full-bottomed wigs, silk gowns and breeches, ruffles and jabot, can have the day they "take silk" encapsulated as a keyring, a fridge magnet or even a desk pen set. The more adventurous could have their images reproduced in a pair of bookends: a heart-shaped box or paperweight.

The new range of photographic memorabilia is the brainchild of Cameo Photography, a firm in Whetstone, north London, which takes all



Key role: the fob Cherie Booth was given after taking silk last year

the pictures of the silks ceremony at the House of Lords every Maundy Thursday. This Thursday another 20 or so barristers will join the top ranks and find themselves in plastic key fobs. Irene Niven, a director of the firm, said: "We got the idea from

America. Last year we gave all the new QCs key fobs free. And we offer them a range of other products which they can then order throughout the year—heart-shaped boxes, for instance, on Valentine's Day."

One QC had ordered ten key fobs at

...ON PAGE 27

Yeltsin ceasefire
President Yeltsin, concerned about his re-election campaign, announced a ceasefire and partial troop withdrawal from Chechnya — Page II

The Times on the Internet
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14
770140 046213

TV & RADIO 38, 39
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORD 24, 40

LETTERS 17
OBITUARIES 19
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 16

ARTS 12-13
CHESS & BRIDGE 24
COURT & SOCIAL 18

BUSINESS NEWS 34-38, 40
MIND AND MATTER 14
LAW REPORT 33

Mother opposed Carol's book

Thatcher marriage 'a partnership of two selfish people'

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A BOOK by Carol Thatcher that portrays her mother as distant and terrifying and describes her parents' relationship as a partnership between two selfish people was privately opposed by Baroness Thatcher.

The biography of Sir Denis Thatcher, *Below the Parapet*, is an intimate portrait of life in one of the world's most famous families and caused occasional heated rows in the Thatcher household. Sir Denis, 80, gave a series of interviews to his daughter, a journalist and broadcaster, and they worked on the book together in Klosters, Switzerland, where she lives for much of the year.

But as the project proceeded Lady Thatcher became increasingly opposed because the book discloses far more personal details about her attitude to family life than her own books. Lady Thatcher has not requested a copy of the transcript and will not attend the launch in London this month. She will be on an overseas speaking tour. Miss

Thatcher, 42, speaking from Klosters, said: "I don't know if she will read it. I did not interview her. She has just written two books. It would have been nice if she could have been at the launch. While launches can take into account many things they cannot take into account your mother's speaking engagements."

She denied that her mother was frosty. "She rang me up on one occasion and told me she was supportive."

Her description of her parents' relationship as a partnership between two selfish people who did not want marriage to change their lives has surprised many friends. Miss Thatcher said: "Their priorities were not to each other or to us."

When she suggested booking a restaurant table for her parents to celebrate her mother's 70th birthday, Lady Thatcher responded: "Good heavens. What on earth would we find to talk about?"

Miss Thatcher disclosed that her father suffered a breakdown. "The only time

she makes clear her admiration for her mother. "I don't expect ever to meet an individual with a greater power of self-discipline and the ability to implement it minute by minute."

She talked to most of her parents' friends and to her father's first wife but her mother was conspicuous by her absence from the interviewing process.

A friend of Miss Thatcher said: "When it became obvious early last year that subjects were being covered which were not referred to in her own books, her mother became actively opposed. She made her views clear."

Lord McAlpine of West Green, a friend of Lady Thatcher for 20 years, said: "Margaret Thatcher is immensely private. There are whole aspects of her life which she did not publish in her books. I have never heard her talk about these things in private. But I am sure many daughters say the same things about their mother."

Margaret Thatcher with Carol and Mark in 1989

Pit takes its coal struggle to big screen

BY ALEXANDRA WILLIAMS AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A GROUP of South Wales miners who saved their pit from closure by buying it have signed a deal to turn their struggle into a film.

The workforce of Tower Colliery in Hirwaun, Mid Glamorgan, signed a contract with the independent film production company First City Features four weeks ago. David Kelly, the producer, has raised finance for the script and is now trying to attract investors or backers. The author Ian Plater has already expressed interest.

The 25-strong Tower workforce, which made £4.1 million gross profits from its first year, insisted it had a success story to tell. "This is an exclusive deal. They are early stages but we are going ahead," Martin Bruce Clayton, from First City Features, said. "We are confident we can make it attractive to financiers."

Phil White, 42, former chairman of the colliery's NUM lodge and now company secretary, said: "David Kelly is positive it's a winner, maybe in America as well because they like the little man against the system."

The colliery will take a percentage of any profits and also plans to set up an educational fund for the area.

Lottery is ticket to chart success

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RECORD companies are fighting to get their biggest pop and classical acts on BBC's *National Lottery Live*, after proving that the prize draw also brings instant fortune for their stars.

The 15-minute programme, which attracts a broad range of viewers on Saturday nights, has become one of the most powerful showcases for singles and albums, according to Richard Ogden, senior vice-president with Sony Music Europe. He said: "Our artists benefit greatly from being on it. Michael Bolton was on the show with a single from his *Greatest Hits* album. It moved the album up the charts by about 20 places and into the top 20."

Record companies are now timing the release of singles to coincide with appearances on

the show, according to the music industry magazine *Music Monitor*. WEA Records scheduled *Cecilia*, by the former Madness singer Suggs, for release today. He is due to appear next weekend.

Although the show's average audience is around 13 million, it peaks at 17-18 million at the time of the draw, just after the five music acts appear. Mark Wells, its producer since October, began the policy of booking big-name acts. He said: "The record companies are now falling over each other to get their acts on the show."

The singer Cher released a single *One by One* on January 8, two days after her appearance in a double rollover week. The record went straight into the singles chart at No 7. The album from which it was drawn, *It's A Man's World*, also saw an increase in sales and re-entered the top 40. Meat Loaf's single *Not a Dry Eye in the House* jumped from No 23 to No 7 in the week after his live appearance on January 20.

The effect is not limited to rock and pop artists. The soprano Lesley Garrett, who appeared on January 27, saw an immediate rise in sales for her album, *Soprano in Red*. The tenor Jose Carreras is booked to appear on the programme on April 20.

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The effect is not limited to rock

...INFORMATION BULLETIN...

THE REFERENDUM PARTY

**A single currency is only one
of the many fundamental
problems of the European Union.**

Here is another.

**European Law already overrules
British Law.**

Each year, the European Commission and the Council issue thousands of pages of "regulations and directives", which we in Britain would call laws.

According to the Treaty,¹ European law (ie "regulations and directives") "shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States".²

The European Court of Justice stated: "Every national court must apply Community law in its entirety and must accordingly set aside any provision of national law which may conflict with it, whether prior or subsequent to the Community rule".³

It is now generally accepted by British judges that "the Treaty is the supreme law of this country taking precedence over Acts of Parliament".⁴ The courts of the United Kingdom have therefore accepted that their duty is to ensure the full and effective rule of Community law, even if it contradicts the unequivocal provisions of Acts of Parliament. Thus, Parliament has surrendered its sovereignty and the Treaty of Rome, as amended by the Single European Act and Maastricht, in effect, has become a written and supreme constitution.

The former Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, stated, "No longer is European Law an incoming tide flowing up the estuaries of England. It is now like a tidal wave bringing down our sea walls and flowing inland over our fields and houses to the dismay of all".⁵

So it is that Parliament has given up its right to pass laws on an ever increasing range of issues.⁶ That is why the referendum is necessary and one of the reasons why a referendum restricted to the issue of a single currency is insufficient.

If the people of Britain want the nation's laws to be enacted in Brussels, then they should be able to say so. The consequence would be that the electoral promises of the political parties would need to be limited to those issues over which they would retain some authority.

If, on the other hand, the British people want to bring power back home, they should also be allowed to say so. Should a majority agree, and the government acts accordingly, then laws enacted in Westminster could once again be supreme and general elections would no longer be the masquerade with which we are now faced.

If you wish to become a supporter of The Referendum Party please write to:

5 Galena Road, Hammersmith, London W6 0LT. Tel: 0181-563 1155. Fax: 0181-563 1156.

1. The Treaty of Rome as amended by the Single European Act and the Treaty of Maastricht. 2. The Treaty of Rome, Article 189(2). 3. Case 106/77 Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato v. Simmenthal (1978) ECR 629 at 643, 644. 4. Hoffman J. in Stoke-on-Trent City Council v. B&Q plc (1990) 3 CMLR 31 at 34. 5. Introduction to Gavin Smith, *The ECJ: Judges or Policy Makers?* 6. The original Treaty of Rome principally covered matters relating to the establishment of a common market. Maastricht radically expanded the areas of Europe's legal competence and went well beyond purely economic matters. The purpose, unequivocally, had become the creation of a European super-state.

17/4/1996

Health director to study big rise in Benbecula cancer

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE Government offered expert help yesterday to analyse a spate of cancer cases on Benbecula in the Western Isles to see if they could be linked to fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear power station explosion ten years ago.

Evidence from two doctors on the island shows that the incidence of some forms of cancer increased three-fold in a year. Dr Francis Tierney and Dr Andrew Senior, who practise at Griminish, noticed the increase early last year. Nineteen new cancers had been reported since 1994 when only six would have been expected. There was a particular increase in cancers of the digestive tract, mainly among crofters.

Dr Tierney said: "There is a sharp increase in the incidence of cancer compared with other parts of the country that must be due to environmental factors. We need the help of scientists to find out why we have this increase and whether it is a true increase compared to other parts of the country that were not so exposed to fallout from Chernobyl."

The radioactive cloud emitted from Chernobyl passed over the Western Isles in May 1986, at a time of heavy rainfall.

Calum MacDonald, Labour MP for the Western Isles, asked the Scottish Office to order an inquiry into the findings. He said: "It is important to establish whether this cluster is significant or merely a blip — and if so, why. These



whether there is indeed anything unusual to be explained, that can easily be provided."

Western Isles Health Board officials are to check the records of every GP and medical establishment on Benbecula to confirm the numbers and to see if any pattern can be established.

Other causes have been suggested, including fallout from rockets fired by an Army range at Benbecula into the Atlantic, and the effect of a powerful air defence radar on a hill on the island. An Army spokeswoman said: "The rockets which have been used at Benbecula are certainly not uranium tipped or anything like that."

Another theory is that the rise is due solely to improved cancer detection methods.

The World Health Organisation said areas such as Gomel in the former Soviet republic of Belarus had suffered a massive increase in cancers in the years after the Chernobyl disaster.

Cancers related to Chernobyl would be spread over many years, as happened with thyroid cancers in Ukraine, he added: "The first issue to be established is whether there is indeed any cancer cluster, and this requires detailed statistical analysis. This is a matter in the first instance for the Western Isles Health Board and its director of public health. If the board wishes expert assistance on assessing

MEDICAL BRIEFING

All change when the wise uncle becomes an aunt

WHEN my overseas patients are in London their time is at a premium, so as many as possible of their special tests are done before they have a consultant's opinion. One man had been struggling with swollen, painful knees totally disorganized by arthritis. Armed with X-rays, MRI scan and pathology lab reports, he went to see Mr William Muirhead-Alwood, who cast them to one side, held up his hands and said: "These are all I need to assess your knees."

Mr Muirhead-Alwood, the orthopaedic surgeon who has announced he is to have a sex-change operation, has been a doctor's doctor for years, one of the specialists doctors consult about their own and their family's troubles. His skills are greatly admired and his self-confident, decisive manner has always been acceptable to colleagues too knowledgeable to need a soft, friendly approach.

Nobody was surprised when Mr Roger Vickers asked Mr Muirhead-Alwood to assist when the Queen Mother had a hip replacement. They make a powerful team.

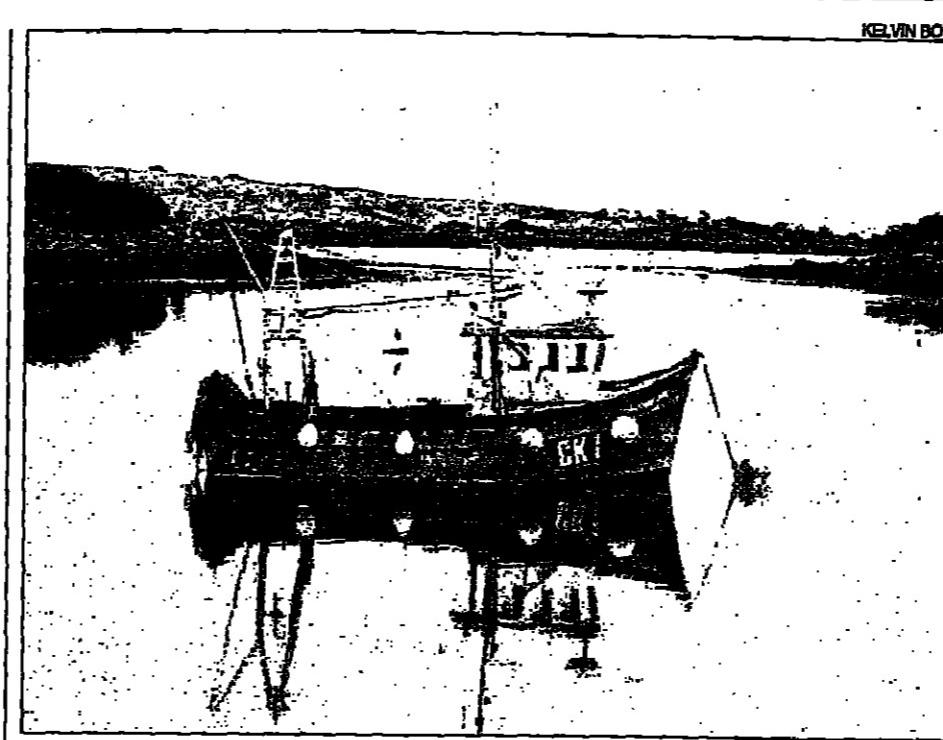
Mr Muirhead-Alwood has voluntarily made a public statement about his intentions. The tragedy will be if his decision excites such prejudices, or engenders anxieties, which interfere with his future as a surgeon.

Doctors need to be relaxed to achieve a rapport. We learn to leave our financial, domestic and emotional problems behind when we are in the surgery or hospital but, if they are too great, they do intrude. This was demonstrated to me when I worked in a busy genito-urinary medical clinic. I prided myself that very few of the hundreds of women from whom I took cervical smears complained. Very occasionally I would have one or two "oohs" and "ouches" on the same day. I realised that

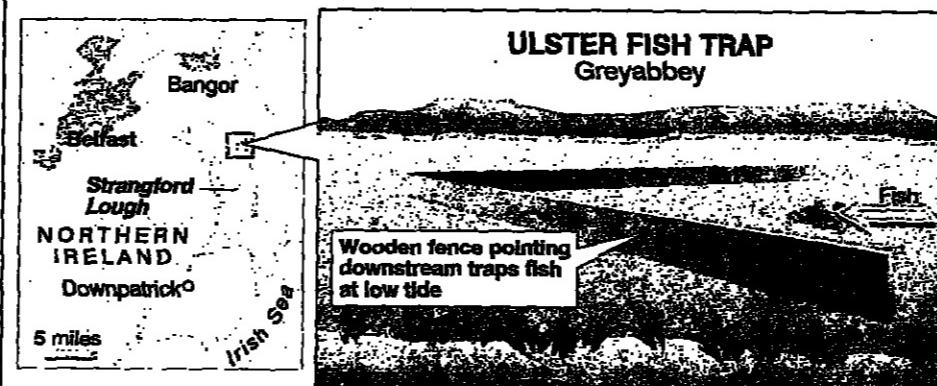
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

WINNER OF TWO INTERNATIONAL GOLD MEDALS? (8)

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Strangford Lough, where the locals may have trapped fish for sale 1,000 years ago



ULSTER FISH TRAP
Greyabbey

How tides have trapped fish for 1,000 years

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have uncovered the remains of giant wooden fish traps dating back 1,000 years on the mudflats of Strangford Lough in Co Down.

During a survey of the tidal lough last summer, archaeologists also uncovered evidence of the first settlers in Ireland in the Mesolithic era 8,000 years ago. Flint tools from the period were found among cockle beds and the remains of oyster shells.

Most attention has focused on the remains of V-shaped fish traps discovered on the mudflats of Greyabbey Bay. They show that the lough, an area of special scientific interest, was highly developed in the early Christian period.

The traps, which were set across small tidal channels, consisted of two "arms" 300 metres long. The arms, which were up to two metres high, were made of woven wattle supported by oak posts which were driven into the mudflats. The archaeologists found remains of the wooden stakes.

Brian Williams, a senior

archaeologist at the Northern Ireland Environment and Heritage Service, said: "At high tide, the fish traps flooded with seawater. As the tide ebbed, any fish caught inside would be trapped in a basket, known as a punt, at the end of the trap. Someone would then pick up the fish. The traps extended over a wide area, which suggests there may have been commercial rather than simply domestic exploitation of the fish."

Mr Williams has used radiocarbon samples to date the remains of three wooden fish traps to 1037, 1053, and 1275. He believes that the fish traps were of special scientific interest, was highly developed in the early Christian period.

The remains of fish traps can still be seen on the lough at low tide because stone traps were placed over the wooden versions in the 12th and 13th centuries. Mr Williams believes that the stone traps were probably built by the Cistercian community at the nearby Grey Abbey.



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We've even made one that runs on rabbit droppings.



The Polo Harlequin.

Dismissed MI6 man 'denied justice'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN MI6 officer who was sacked last year is claiming unfair dismissal (Michael Evans writes). But he has been prevented from taking his case to an industrial tribunal because MI6 staff are barred from taking such action when they join the service.

The *Sunday Times*, which reported the sacking yesterday, said the MI6 officer was allegedly sacked for lack of commitment to the service. He was allowed to take his case before an internal tribunal headed by Lord Justice Brown but his claim was dismissed. He told *The Sunday Times* that he had been denied justice. "I had no legal representation or access to papers said to give reasons for my dismissal."

Intelligence sources said: "It's impossible for a sacked MI6 officer to go to an industrial tribunal because it would mean disclosing classified information."

set objectives for the year to cascade effect" under which individual objectives achieved by MI6 staff helped to fulfil the overall aims for the whole organisation.

The booklet disclosed that even those officers engaged in long-term penetration of terrorist organisations were expected to set themselves annual objectives to benefit from the scheme.

The performance pay disclosure is made in a booklet published by the Security Service at the end of last week. The intention was to create "a

system soon Under the scheme, individual MI6 staff are expected to

set objectives for the year to cascade effect" under which individual objectives achieved by MI6 staff helped to fulfil the overall aims for the whole organisation.

and validated each year by a sub-committee of the Cabinet Office Committee on Security and approved by ministers. The organisation of MI6 is also detailed in the new booklet, which highlights the importance of the department responsible for strategy and planning.

According to the booklet, MI6 has stepped up efforts to prevent British companies, universities and scientific institutions from helping rogue states to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Despite export restrictions controlling the sale of sensitive equipment to other countries, MI6 has said that there are many companies in Britain which could potentially, although largely unwittingly, give assistance to nuclear, mechanical and biological weapons programmes.

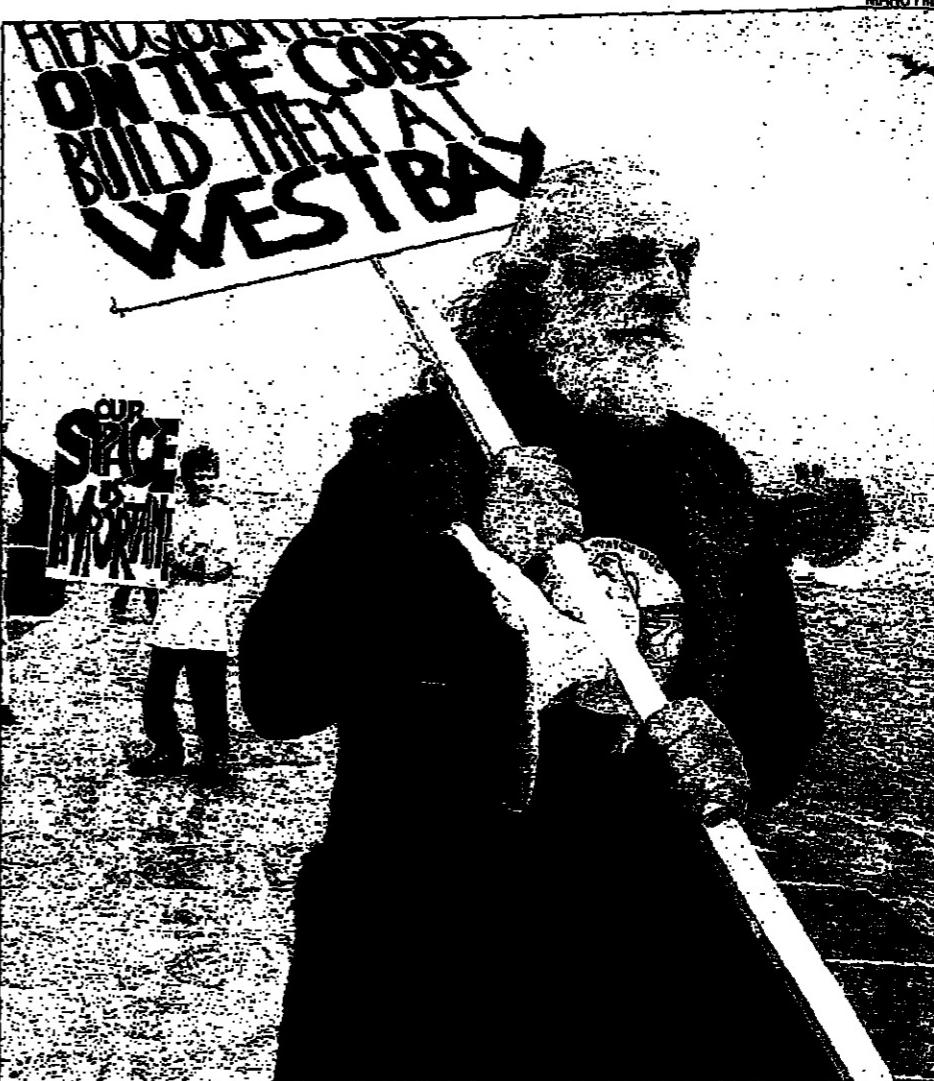
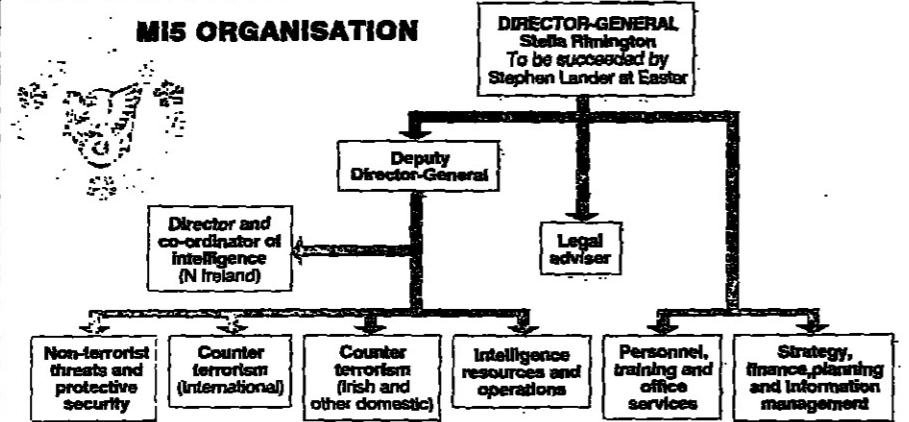
"A number of countries are known actively to be seeking western technology, expertise and materials to further their own programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction," MI6 said. These countries had developed "highly sophisticated worldwide procurement networks".

MI5 spies join Whitehall performance pay scheme

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE 2,000 staff at MI5 have been put on performance-related pay to guarantee value-for-money intelligence-gathering. The counter-espionage and counter-terrorist officers of the Security Service have joined the same management culture as the rest of Whitehall. The Armed Forces are to adopt the system soon.

Under the scheme, individual MI5 staff are expected to



Régis de Bouvier de Bachard, a French artist, joins protesters in Lyme Regis yesterday against plans for a lifeboat station that would block views of The Cobb, seen in Karel Reisz's film of John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

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CONSERVATIVE?

Issued and paid for by former Conservatives who now support The Labour Party.

Heseltine leads drive for sale of West Coast line

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HESELTINE and Brian Mawhinney are putting intense pressure on Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, to sell the troubled West Coast main line rail franchise before the election.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Tory party chairman see the London to Glasgow InterCity franchise as a crucial "scalp" for the privatisation policy. The route has fallen to the back of the queue because the 400-mile track is in urgent need of modernisation, making the route far harder to sell. Railtrack is planning an £800 million programme of improvements over nine years.

However, Mr Heseltine and Dr Mawhinney, a former Transport Secretary, believe the sale of the franchise would act as a vital counter to Labour claims that privatisation acts as a deterrent to investment.

"If we can get West Coast away, it proves that the system can deal with selling a franchise at the same time as a major upgrading of the route that it runs on," a senior government source said.

The line, which serves 20 million people, runs through or past a swath of Tory-held marginal seats in the Midlands and the North West.

Mr Heseltine has taken a keen interest in privatisation, frequently interfering in the Department of Transport's presentation of the policy.

which has remained relatively unpopular with the public throughout the sale. Ministers now believe the worst is over and that with the sale gathering pace and Labour's attacks blunted by its own policy problems, it will turn into a vote winner.

Mr Heseltine wants all 25 franchises to be sold before the election, but is particularly concerned about the two biggest franchises not yet on the market, West Coast and ScotRail, which is complicated by a dispute with the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive. The two are now expected to be put on the market in the summer or autumn, with handover to the private sector by early next year, if the sales run smoothly.

So far, only two franchises, South West and Great Western, have actually changed hands. A further five — InterCity East Coast, Network SouthCentral, Gatwick Express, Midland Main Line, and LTS Rail, which was pulled from the brink of sale in February — are expected to be under new ownership by the end of April.

The West Coast main line track has not been upgraded for 30 years. Railtrack was recently ordered by the Health and Safety Executive to carry out emergency improvements to the track at Euston, its London terminus, after a succession of derailments.

Military police chief gains right to bonus

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

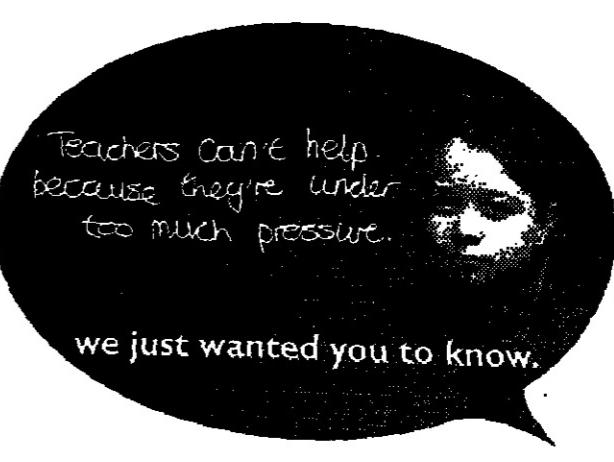
THE Chief Constable of the country's eighth biggest police force will receive bonus pay if he runs his force efficiently under government reforms starting today.

The Ministry of Defence Police is the first force to become an agency under the Government's "Next Steps" initiative. Wally Boreham, a former Scotland Yard officer who now heads the ministry force, will receive extra pay-

ments, yet to be negotiated, on top of a salary of more than £60,000 if the force meets cost and efficiency targets.

Known unofficially as the "Mod Pod", the force has 4,500 officers responsible for protecting military installations and the ministry's civilian plants. Three-quarters of the force is armed at any one time.

Senior officers in the force mean that they can make money from hiring out training facilities.



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Management
take aim

University review challenges dominance of colleges in decision making

Management consultants take aim at Oxford elite

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MANAGEMENT consultants are proposing to change the balance of power within Oxford University to give academic departments a stronger role and to introduce a central administration more in line with other universities.

The traditional dominance of the colleges and the complex system of government make Oxford slow to react to opportunities, particularly in research, the report by Coopers and Lybrand says.

The report recommends that Congregation, the dons' parliament, should lose its place as the supreme body in the university, delegating its powers to a streamlined general council to include college heads, elected dons and up to three outsiders.

The Vice-Chancellor, Oxford's senior academic, would serve for longer and acquire three deputies to share the administrative load. They would chair three new boards, responsible for planning, stan-

dards and liaison with the colleges. Outsiders would be brought in to sit on influential committees and advise on appointments.

The number of faculties would be reduced, possibly by half, and the new subject units would have more power. Where disagreements arose over teaching, the "burden of proof" would lie with the colleges.

The report says that the university should delegate more decision-making and introduce greater accountability. Among the other main recommendations are:

- Some colleges to specialise, rather than each trying to teach all subjects;
- Better planning, including a new central unit, to prevent wasteful internal competition for research grants;
- Oxford to take a "more visible lead" in developing ideas about higher education.

Although apparently bureaucratic, the changes advo-

cated by the consultants would have an impact comparable to that brought about by the Franks Committee, which carried out Oxford's last fundamental review 30 years ago.

The report has already been considered by the Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Dr Peter North, the Vice-Chancellor, which is due to report before the end of the year. Members of the commission decided to reserve judgment on its recommendations until a wider debate in the university next term.

The commission has asked for responses before the end of next month. It has already issued its own initial conclusions, dismissing some of the more radical proposals to preserve Oxford's collegiate structure and tutorial teaching.

First reactions to the report cast doubt on the likelihood of change on the scale demanded by the consultants. Anthony Smith, the President of Mag-

dalene College, said the proposals could lead to reform of "historic proportions" but there could be unintended damage to undergraduate teaching if too much emphasis was placed on research.

Robert Stevens, the Master of Pembroke College, said: "Many of the ideas are very sensible, but my worry is that we could end up with the worst of both worlds, destroying the teaching structure which makes the university what it is, without getting into the first division for research."

Sir Walter Bodmer, the world-renowned scientist who takes the helm at Hertford College in September, said the report was disappointing because the Vice-Chancellor still would not have sufficient authority. "I am amazed that they say they want more democracy. I would have thought that one of Oxford's problems was that it is absolutely riddled with democracy and cannot take decisions."



Magdalen College, Oxford, one of those whose dominance is accused of stifling opportunity

Alarm firm settles dispute over theft

By PETER FOSTER

A MAN who lost antiques worth £200,000 in a burglary has reached an out-of-court settlement with the company that sold him his burglar alarm.

Michael Clarke-Jervoise filed a High Court writ against Chubb Alarms after his insurance company refused to pay out because the advanced infra-red intruder alarm system installed and maintained by Chubb had failed to go off.

The burglar's haul included George III silver spoons depicting the family's crest, a Regency regulator clock worth £14,000 and a landscape painting by the 17th-century Dutch artist Albert Cuyp valued at £150,000.

The valuables were being kept at Mr Clarke-Jervoise's former home, a six-bedroom Tudor house near Basingstoke.

The writ catalogued six occasions between December 1992 and December 1993 when Chubb engineers visited the house and assured Mr Clarke-Jervoise that the alarm was working.

But when in February 1994 he visited his son who was working in Bolivia, leaving his

wife and cleaning lady to watch the house and operate the alarm, burglars were able to break in without setting off the infra-red detectors.

Richard Harrison, solicitor to Mr Clarke-Jervoise, said Chubb had required a confidentiality clause as a condition of settling out of court. Mr Clarke-Jervoise, 66, would say only that he was "content" with the outcome and was still ruling the loss of the antiques.

"The Cuyp landscape is a classic. It was bought by one of my ancestors in the middle of the 18th century and had been in the family ever since."

The Association of British Insurers advised policy holders whose insurance depended on alarms being fully operational to keep accurate service records and use only engineers accredited by the National Approval for Security Systems organisation, of which Chubb is a member.

Anyone who is unsure whether their alarm is working should immediately contact their insurance company and follow any recommendations for security measures while waiting for the alarm to be repaired.

Salmon fall linked to global warming'

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A DECLINE in numbers of spring salmon in British rivers has been linked to global warming. Researchers believe the area of the northwest Atlantic able to support the fish during the winter has fallen by a fifth.

Dave Reddin, a scientist at the Canadian Government's North West Atlantic Fisheries Centre in St John's, Nova Scotia, said: "Sea temperatures in the northern part of the habitat have been getting colder but in the south they have been getting warmer. So the area the salmon can inhabit is collapsing on itself."

The findings mirror computer models of global warming caused by pollution rises. "Part of the predictions is that the northern part of the northwest Atlantic will get colder because of Arctic ice melting, bringing colder waters in the Labrador current."

Some spring salmon runs have declined markedly in recent years, forcing the authorities and anglers to adopt restrictions. Captain Jeremy Read of the Atlantic Salmon Trust said it was vital that fishing of spring salmon in the sea and rivers was reduced.

Northernmost 10% of water is now too cold
Southern 10% of water is now too hot

Salmons' migration routes

Smuggler fails to win recompence

A convicted drug smuggler who served seven years has unanimously lost his case in the European Court of Human Rights to make the Government pay him more than £300,000 compensation. Peter Welch, a former rock guitarist, alleged that he lost money because of a court order, applied retrospectively, banning him from dealing in properties in Portugal, Swansea and Chislehurst, southeast London.

Last flight

The RAF's basic training aircraft, the Chipmunk, was grounded yesterday after nearly 50 years of service. It took over from the Tiger biplane in 1949 and although replaced in the late 1950s continued to be used by university squadrons and air cadets.

Anti-flak patrol

Traffic wardens in Cardiff are to be issued with bullet-proof jackets to combat an increase in assaults. But one warden said: "Drivers don't shoot or stab us — they try to run us over. I can't see a flak-jacket giving us much protection against that."

D-day for Welsh

New drivers in Wales can display only D-plates (dygwr is Welsh for learner) from today, instead of having L-plates as well. Rod Richards, a Welsh Office Minister, said: "It is part of enabling Welsh to be used more in everyday life."

Bus chase

A boy aged 16 was charged with aggravated vehicle-taking after police chased a British Airways bus 40 miles along the M4 between Thames Valley and Wiltshire. Five teenagers were charged with being passengers knowing the vehicle was taken.

Martini's ugly advert leaves bitter aftertaste

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE Advertising Standards Authority has censured Martini for a television advertisement telling viewers to have cosmetic surgery so they "look good enough" to drink it.

After receiving many complaints, it ruled that the advertisement was hurtful to disabled people and could be shown only after 9pm. The advertisement shows a man who apparently feels too ugly to drink Martini and seeks cosmetic surgery. Emerging self-confidently from the hospital afterwards, he happily

sips the drink in the company of a woman. Another advertisement considered "offensive" by the authority portrayed a quiz show in which the winners have cosmetic surgery so they "look good enough" to drink it.

The Independent Television Commission, which collects such complaints, was particularly concerned about the possible impact on facially disfigured children who would not necessarily interpret the material in the relatively sophisticated way intended, the authority said. Martini said the advertisements were intended to satirise vanity.

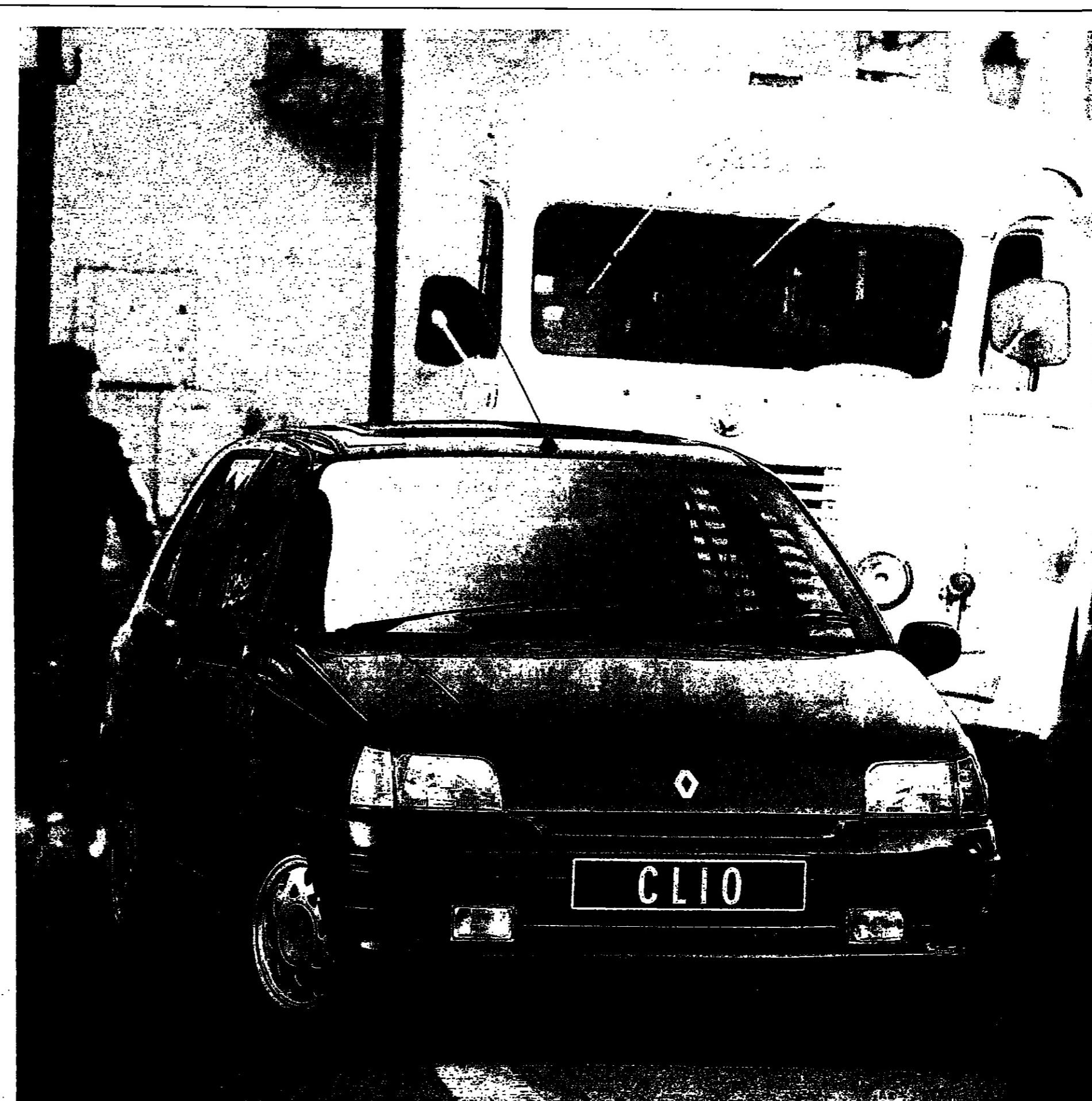
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Labour and Liberal Democrats hunt council seats lost after Major's 1992 triumph

Honeymoon joy fades away for embattled Tories

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

NOMINATIONS close today for the local elections on May 2, when John Major will discover whether he has at last succeeded in rallying real support and can hope to stay in Downing Street beyond next year.

The Tories slumped to their worst defeat yet in local elections a year ago, losing nearly 1,800 seats and control of 59 councils. A comparable drubbing this year would make a recovery before a general election almost impossible.

Their task is all the more difficult because the 1,218 seats they are defending were won in the honeymoon after the 1992 general election. They took 48 per cent of the vote then, capturing traditional Labour seats in the Midlands and the North. Michael Howard, then Environment Secretary, spoke confidently of "sea change in British politics".

The party's fortunes have declined in every local election since. In the county council elections in 1993 they lost 15 shires, retaining control only of Buckinghamshire. In 1994 they lost all but three London boroughs and the Liberal Democrats swept through the West. Last year their share of the vote collapsed to 27 per cent. They were left in overall control of only eight districts

and lost control of Trafford, their last remaining metropolitan council. The Liberal Democrats overtook them as the second party of local government, capturing 14 districts to give them control of 45 towns.

Labour, however, now runs 155 authorities and has more councillors than the combined total of Tories and Liberal Democrats. With opinion polls showing Labour is up to 30 points in front, the Tory candidates this year face a daunting task.

The May elections will be in only those authorities where a third of the seats are contested each year. They include 100 districts and the 36 metropolitan authorities, but none of the shires or London boroughs.

There are also elections for full shadow councils for the 13 new all-purpose unitary authorities, which take over in 12 months.

The Tories control only four of the districts — Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, Huntingdon, Macclesfield and Runnymede. They stand no realistic chance of winning any of the four Tory districts.

The Liberal Democrats do not share Labour's caution. Paddy Ashdown called in his final government leaders to tell them that their councils were "the proud showcase of what practical Liberal Democrat action is all about".



The Conservatives face an uphill task in Macclesfield but are confident of victory

Unloved counties consigned to annals of local history

SO FAREWELL then Avon, Cleveland and Humberside. Widely ridiculed and unwanted when they were created in 1974, the three counties with their 21 district councils cease to exist today. Sixty-two Scottish and 45 Welsh district authorities also go.

In their place, with responsibility for all local government services from emptying dustbins to educating children, there will be unitary authorities of the kind Michael Heseltine envisaged six years ago when Environment Secretary.

The reorganisation is costing at least £100 million and 6,500 staff have been made redundant or taken

early retirement. The numbers are expected to swell as new authorities streamline their staff and services.

Although they have new functions and responsibilities, the new councils have old names and old loyalties. Unloved Humberside will be reborn north of the river as The East Riding of Yorkshire and the City and County of Kingston upon Hull.

The shake-up has caused uncertainty among senior officers of defunct councils. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities found that 600 of 1,343 chief officer posts in Scotland were disappearing, while average pay for chief executives had

risen from £57,000 to £74,000. In England the number of departmental directors has fallen from 420 to 291.

The changes below show the old county or region in bold, then the new unitary authority, with the districts they replace in brackets.

AVON to Gloucestershire: Bristol; South Gloucestershire (Gloswood, Northwood); Io Somerst; North West Somerset (Wrington); Sedgemoor; Mendip; South Gloucestershire (Bath, Midsomer); Cleveland; to Durham; Hartlepool; Stockton To Yorkshie; Middlesbrough; Redcar & Cleveland (Langborth).

HEREFORD & WORCESTER To Yorkshire; Hull; East Riding of Holderness; Beverley; East Yorks; parts of Boothferry; To Lincolnshire; North East Lincks (Claythorpe, Grimsby); North Lincs (parts of Boston, Gainsborough, Scunthorpe).

WALES: Cymru: Split between: (Aberconwy) & Caernarfon;

Dorsetshire (Ruddlesdon and Glyndwr); Flintshire (Alyn & Dulas); Dyfed: Split between: Cardiganshire (Ceredigion); Carmarthenshire (Carmarthen, Dimet, Llanelli); Pembrokeshire (Preste, St Clears, Pembroke); Powys: Brecknock & Montgomery; Monmouthshire; Gwent; South Wales; Newport; Torfaen; Blaenau Gwent; part of Gwynedd (Isle of Anglesey); Merionethshire; Anglesey (Ynys Môn Isle of Anglesey); Mid Glamorgan; Split between: Bridgend (Ogmore); Vale of Glamorgan; Cymru Taff (Taff Ely, Rhondda, Cynon Valley, Merthyr Tydfil); part of Gwynedd (Rhymney Valley).

SCOTLAND: Regional councils Borders: The Borders (Berwickshire, Roxburgh,

Erik & Lauderdale, Tweeddale); Central: Stirling; Fife; Clackmannan;

Dumfries & Galloway; Dumfries, Galloway (Armadale & Eskdale, Nithsdale, Wigton).

Fife: Fife (Dundee, Kirkcaldy, North East Fife); Fife; Grampian: Aberdeenshire (Bervie and Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside); Moray; Highland: Highlands (Badenoch & Strathspey, Caithness, Inverness, Lochaber, Nairn, Ross & Cromarty, Sutherland, Wester Ross); Lothian: East Lothian; Midlothian; Edinburgh; West Lothian.

Strathclyde: Argyll & Bute; Argyll & Bute (Kilmacolm & Lunderston); South Lanarkshire (Clydesdale, East Kilbride, Hamilton); North Lanarkshire (Cumbernauld, Motherwell, Motherstone, Strathclyde, Glasgow); East Dunbartonshire; Renfrewshire; East Renfrewshire (Eastwood); Dunbartonshire & Clydebank (Dumbarton, Clydebank); Renfrewshire, Inverclyde; North Ayrshire (Carron, Kilmarnock); North Ayrshire; Tayside; Angus; Dundee; Perth & Kinross; Orkney Islands; Shetland Islands; Western Isles.

have two cars than no car at all; more than 4,000 households have three or more. Consequently, parking is close to the top of the list of local election issues. Ron Short, the Labour leader, asked what he would press for first if the Tories lost control, said: "Improving residents' parking and setting up park and ride."

He still believes national issues are the key to breaking Tory control. He concentrates on trying to couple successful local leadership with government failures.

A prosperous mill town, Macclesfield is the centre of a rural borough as big as the Isle of Man. Eric Cantona and commuting London stockbrokers are near neighbours in the green and wealthy Cheshire countryside. Only one in 20 is unemployed and the borough is home to 17,000 managers and 2,400 unskilled manual workers.

The town's 60,000 population elects 18 councillors of whom only two are Tory. The 90,000 in the surrounding towns and villages elect 42 councillors of whom 31 are Tory. Hence, the Conservatives hold 33 of the 60 seats on the council. They are defending 15 of them on May 2 and if Labour and the Liberal Democrats can capture three, the Tories will lose control for the first time in memory.

Dr Mike Stewart, the deputy Tory leader, said: "In national terms we stand no chance at all, but I am confident we will keep control because people recognise we have done such a good job."

He pointed proudly to the Liberal Democrats in the case of a hung council — they cannot be trusted to vote correctly, according to Mr Short — and Mr Cleaver wants no part of an alliance. "I so much disagree with so many of the things Labour does," he said. "But we feel we could still work well in a hung council making up our mind which policy to support on each issue and pushing through our own ideas with the help of the officers."

The Conservatives see a lack of co-operation between the two opposition parties as a further pointer to their ability to hang on to power. "There is not much animosity between us really," Dr Stewart said. "In Macclesfield on most issues we genuinely work together as a coalition."

Village voters allow isolated party to survive

By IAN MURRAY

MACCLESFIELD is the last remaining Conservative council in the North of England. The Tories must hold on to the Cheshire borough if they want to be seen as anything more than a regional party confined to the South East.

A prosperous mill town, Macclesfield is the centre of a rural borough as big as the Isle of Man. Eric Cantona and commuting London stockbrokers are near neighbours in the green and wealthy Cheshire countryside. Only one in 20 is unemployed and the borough is home to 17,000 managers and 2,400 unskilled manual workers.

The town's 60,000 population elects 18 councillors of whom only two are Tory. The 90,000 in the surrounding towns and villages elect 42 councillors of whom 31 are Tory. Hence, the Conservatives hold 33 of the 60 seats on the council. They are defending 15 of them on May 2 and if Labour and the Liberal Democrats can capture three, the Tories will lose control for the first time in memory.

Dr Mike Stewart, the deputy Tory leader, said: "In national terms we stand no chance at all, but I am confident we will keep control because people recognise we have done such a good job."

He pointed proudly to the Liberal Democrats in the case of a hung council — they cannot be trusted to vote correctly, according to Mr Short — and Mr Cleaver wants no part of an alliance. "I so much disagree with so many of the things Labour does," he said. "But we feel we could still work well in a hung council making up our mind which policy to support on each issue and pushing through our own ideas with the help of the officers."

The Conservatives see a lack of co-operation between the two opposition parties as a further pointer to their ability to hang on to power. "There is not much animosity between us really," Dr Stewart said. "In Macclesfield on most issues we genuinely work together as a coalition."

End of ceasefire puts pressure on Sinn Fein in Irish ballots

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN will face its first electoral test tomorrow since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire. It is fielding candidates in two parliamentary by-elections in the Irish Republic, where the party failed to win more than a derisory few hundred votes in most seats during the 1992 election.

Widespread anger with the IRA for resuming its violent campaign may cost Sinn Fein votes in the polls at Co Donegal and in Dublin. The greatest attention is focused on Donegal North East where its candidate Pat Doherty, the party's vice-president.

The constituency runs along the border with Co Londonderry in Northern Ireland. The by-election was caused by the death last year of Neil Blaney, the independent Dail member, who was expelled from the Fianna Fail party in 1971 when he faced charges for importing arms to the Republic for the IRA. The charges were later dropped.

Mr Doherty, 50, regarded as one of the republican movement's strategists, hopes to win votes from Blaney's fiercely republican supporters, to push up Sinn Fein's vote from 800 at the last election to 3,000, which would be 10 per cent of the likely poll. However, he faces a tough fight for the

republican vote from Mr Blaney's brother Harry, and from Cecilia Keaveney, the official Fianna Fail candidate, who are the main contenders for the seat.

Mr Doherty, who lives in the constituency, received a polite reception from voters as he canvassed over the weekend. At Rathmelton, a village with a high proportion of Protestants, voters wished him luck, although most refused to say whether they would vote for him.

Noel Sweeney, a pensioner, said: "I would like the ceasefire back. People in this area want peace, so I cannot

see many people voting Sinn Fein." Another villager said he would vote for Sinn Fein to register anger over the British and Irish Governments' handling of the peace process. Jim Gallagher, 41, said: "Pat is a good candidate and he would stir things up in the Dail."

Mr Doherty, who canvassed yesterday with Gerry Adams, his party's president, conceded that most voters wanted the ceasefire restored, although many shared his criticisms of the British Government and Unionists. He said: "I have not encountered too much hostility on the doorsteps. I tell people that we

are trying to re-establish the package which led to the ceasefire. People recognise our role in the peace process."

Mr Doherty, a construction engineer who was born in Glasgow and moved to Co Donegal aged 22, is regarded in Dublin as one of the more affable members of Sinn Fein. Asked whether he has ever been a member of the IRA, he said: "I have been a member of Sinn Fein since 1970."

The other by-election, in Dublin West, was caused by the death of Brian Lenihan, the former Fianna Fail deputy prime minister. Brian Jr, his son, is the favourite.

KELVIN BOYES



Pat Doherty, Sinn Fein vice-president, goes canvassing in Rathmelton

Embassies lose track of public art

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR MPs have called for an investigation into how ten British embassies around the world have "lost" pictures from the Government Art Collection. Embassies in Bangkok, Buenos Aires, Lagos, Hanoi, Jeddah, Santiago, Cape Town, Beirut, Baghdad and Belgrade have in the past five years reported works of art on loan from the government collection as missing.

Angela Eagle, a Labour MP on the Public Accounts Committee, has asked the National Audit Office to look into the disappearance of more than 450 pictures from the government collection. Half of them from Foreign Office buildings. Ms Eagle said: "They may not be very valuable but they are public property."

There is the suspicion that some people may be treating them as their personal property." However, the Foreign Office said: "Given the global upheavals of the 20th century and the lack of proper records it would not be surprising if pictures have been lost."

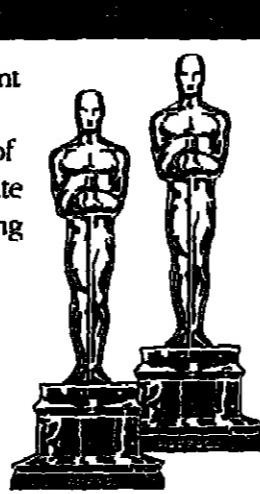
Among more recent losses are *Off Reculvers*, an 1826 watercolour by Bentley, from the embassy in Chile. Prints of the Bank of England and St Paul's Cathedral have gone missing from the consulate at Jeddah. Last year the embassy in Bangkok lost a print by Trevelyan and the embassy in Buenos Aires lost three modern works in a series called *Paradox*.

Several works were lost when embassies were evacuated at short notice. Two watercolours by Lodge went missing from Baghdad during the Gulf War and a print of Eton College Chapel was lost

from the embassy in Belgrade in 1993. The Department of National Heritage said that most of the missing items were "low budget" and of limited interest. A spokesman said: "The Government art collection has a brief to buy works of art that reflect the British way of life. That means it is long on landscapes and portraits of worthy people. It is very traditional and not of great value."

The Foreign Office has now introduced security procedures, including the coding of all pictures.

The department believes many "missing" works could have been wrongly listed or counted, or still be in Government possession. "Missing is not an absolute status. Each year works are found again, often in government locations, where they have been moved without authority and knowledge."



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A Close Shave: BBC1 Good Friday at 6.40pm.
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Anne Frank Remembered: BBC2 Easter Monday at 7.00pm.
Best Documentary Feature: A Jon Blair Film in association with BBC Television and the Disney Channel.

BBC

TELEVISION AT ITS BEST

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 1 1996

Hong Kong scrum for British passports amid twilight of colonial rituals

FROM TOM WALKER
IN HONG KONG

AS HONG KONG'S expatriate community wallowed in its annual beery binge of rugby "sevens" at the weekend, the colony's other main stadium found itself packed to the rafters too — with desperate last-minute applicants for British National Overseas passports.

Violence on the rugby pitch in the Hong Kong stadium was matched by chaotic scenes outside Wan Chai stadium, where tempers became

frazied in a queue of 20,000 mainly Chinese hopefuls which snaked around the business district's pedestrian flyovers to Immigration Tower. One man was hospitalised after being hit over the head with a mobile phone, only to find himself arrested afterwards for causing a fracas.

Chris Patten, the Governor, wisely stayed in the rugby stadium, dancing with the distinctly non-Chinese mass to the tunes of Hong Kong Bank, and Cathay Pacific advertisements, and was seen on

closed-circuit television cheering the Hong Kong team run in a consolation try against France.

Meanwhile, such was the scale of the panic at Wan Chai that the Immigration Department worked through the night on Saturday: extra helpers came in to process nearly 60,000 weekend applications at a rate of 2,000 an hour and yesterday evening there were 700 officials working on all eight floors of Immigration Tower. All those joining the mile-long queue before midnight were guaranteed to have

their applications processed. Future hopefuls will have to apply under Chinese rule.

The queue ran the gamut of end-of-empire society, from exasperated civil servants and businessmen barking down mobile telephones to sugarcane-chewing peasants; even a few sweating expatriates were to be found, worried about their status from next year. They were united in one concern only — that Peking could wreak havoc with their liberty to travel in and out of the Special Administrative Region

of China. "I had no idea this might apply to gweilos [whites]," complained Stephen James, a designer from Bristol who has been here for 20 years. "But the more people I spoke to, the more people I discovered going through the process. I don't want to have to come back here under the Chinese and be queuing for a permit every six months."

Successful applicants will have unimpeded passage to and from Chinese-ruled Hong Kong, and visa-free access to about 80 countries after the sovereignty change.

An Australian in the queue, 28-year-old Jason Wordie from Queensland, said he was prepared to relinquish his Australian passport. "It's not that I want to be British," he said. "But I want to be a citizen of Hong Kong."

About 175,000 applications have been received — more than double the number expected — although in theory up to two million Chinese, who have lived in the territory for five years, could have applied. There was no evidence that the

relatively small proportion of passport-seekers would lead to a flood of Hong Kong visitors to Britain. "There are no jobs, it's expensive — I don't like the place," said Larry, a businessman originally from Shantung in northern China.

□ Anti-Peking protest: More than 800 demonstrators took part in a march through Hong Kong yesterday in protest at Peking's heavy-handed efforts to reverse democratic reforms. They chanted: "Silence is not golden, it's fatal." (Reuters)

Chinese police raid American banquet in aid of orphans

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINESE security police raided a banquet and stopped best-selling American writer Amy Tan, author of the novel *Joy Luck Club*, from making a speech to raise funds for Chinese orphans, the event's organisers said last night. The function was attended by the new American Ambassador to Peking.

The envoys, Jim Sasser, due to return to Washington shortly to lobby his former congressional colleagues to renew China's most favoured nation (MFN) status, was "flabbergasted" by the heavy-handed police tactics, said an American businessman sitting at the same table.

Most of the top United States and other foreign companies in Peking had sponsored tables at the banquet, at which Ms Tan, 44, a Chinese-American, was to make her speech, which had been publicised in advance.

"Ambassador Sasser just could not understand how the Chinese authorities could act with such insensitivity," said the businessman, who asked not to be named. "He is getting ready to go to the US to lobby on Peking's behalf on MFN — you can imagine how he must feel now."

Up to 40 Chinese security men were involved in the raid on the Holiday Inn Lido just before the banquet began. They wanted to stop the event altogether, but relented and put up partitions to divide the ballroom into sections. They

also ripped banners from the walls that read "Love Children" and "Cherish Orphans".

Others at the event said that San Francisco-born Amy Tan, who also works with disabled children in America, was then banned from delivering her speech. However, she went from table to table to thank participants for their contributions.

Peking, which in recent weeks had tried to intimidate

Taiwan plans military drills

Taipei Taiwan will hold three military drills next week, including a live-fire exercise near China. Chuang Chung-lin, the Taiwanese Defence Minister, said they would take place from Sunday until the following Wednesday in the Matsu island group. (APF)

Taiwanese voters by staging live military exercises in the Taiwan Strait, is still smarting from allegations made this year that unwanted orphans had been allowed to die from starvation at a state-run Shanghai orphanage and at other children's homes.

James McGregor, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce here, which was participating in the event, said: "This was designed pure-

ly to raise money to help Chinese orphans. Politics did not come into it at all — it is very disappointing."

The chamber is also sending a delegation to Washington in two weeks' time to lobby for a renewal of China's favoured trading status. "There are so many good people in China too," noted a member of the delegation.

"There are many positive things going on in China, but they are cancelled out by this folly. At a time like this the last thing Peking needs is bad publicity. What sense does it make to close an effort to aid orphans? China's image is already negative because of the Taiwan exercises."

During the raid, which took place an hour before the banquet was due to start, the plainclothes security men claimed that the organisers did not have permission to stage the \$472 (£310) a head event. But sources close to the organisers said that Peking hotels held such charitable events almost nightly without any police interference.

"It was sheer stupidity to do this with the new American Ambassador present," said one participant. "The Chinese really have their feet in their mouths this time."

Organisers said that almost all the top American companies in Peking, from McDonnell-Douglas to Johnson & Johnson and Chevron, were represented among the 450 participants.



Thousands protest as US bases stay

Government in the run-up to President Clinton's visit in two weeks. The Communist organisers said about

90,000 people gathered in the capital in the biggest anti-American rally on the mainland since the rape of a 12-

year-old girl by three US servicemen last September. About 1,500 police in Okinawa were guarding an American telecommunications base, the lease for part of which expired at midnight. (APF)

Caretaker appointed to save Dhaka democracy

FROM AHMED FAZL
IN DHAKA

THE Bangladesh parliament was prematurely dissolved at the weekend after Begum Khaleda Zia, the Prime Minister, resigned and an Oxford-educated retired judge took charge to salvage the country's crumbling democracy. The

transfer of power occurred as tens of thousands of opposition activists threatened to storm President Ahmed's house unless Begum Zia and her Council of Ministers, formed less than two weeks ago, stepped down.

The opposition Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, a bitter foe of Begum

Zia, has been waging a two-year campaign to unseat the Prime Minister. A disputed general election in February, which the opposition boycotted, gave a one-sided victory to Begum Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Last month the "Battle of the Beggars" escalated when the opposition launched a non-co-

operation campaign, crippling the economy. The cost of their political confrontation is said to face famine conditions.

Diplomats in Dhaka say the appointment of Muhammad Habibur Rahman, 66, who retired as Chief Justice a year ago, as interim leader has blunted the threat of an imminent takeover by the armed forces.

The military is already on the streets, guarding sensitive installations.

Mr Rahman has been asked to hold multiparty elections within three months. But given a legacy of violent electorating, there are doubts about the prospects of a second peaceful poll this year.

ANC presses Pretoria to abandon anti-Abacha line

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE opposition to the Nigerian military regime of General Sani Abacha suffered a setback at the weekend when its first conference in Africa was, effectively, crippled by its South African hosts.

Addressed by Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian Nobel laureate, the conference was to have been a rallying point for Nigerian pro-democracy forces, leading to the establishment of a symbolically important headquarters on African soil.

The Nigerian opposition has looked to South Africa as its best friend after President Mandela's turnaround at the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference, when the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Nigerian dissidents saw the South African President abandon his conciliatory pose and lead a furious demand for sanctions against the Abacha regime.

Hardly had Mr Mandela returned home, however, than the murmuring campaign began. Since he had made policy on his own, neither the Foreign Ministry, the African National Congress, nor the Communist Party had been able to exercise their customary influence.

Each had significant reservations. No African country has followed Mr Mandela's lead, leaving South Africa isolated diplomatically — just when Pretoria had wanted maximum African support for its attempt to win a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

His comments came as local actors expressed outrage that Sidney Poitier, the American star, is playing Mr Mandela in another film. Michael Caine is also tipped to play a role in the American-financed production as F. W. de Klerk, the last apartheid ruler, although physically there is no resemblance between the two.

Mr Singh is non-committal over whether a South African will be cast in the role. "I want someone who will do justice to the part and at present I don't know where he will come from," he said yesterday. Mr Mandela said at the weekend: "It is our duty to primarily support our own artists."

His comments came as local actors expressed outrage that Sidney Poitier, the American star, is playing Mr Mandela in another film. Michael Caine is also tipped to play a role in the American-financed production as F. W. de Klerk, the last apartheid ruler, although physically there is no resemblance between the two.

South Africa had, ANC activists alleged, been tricked by "British and American imperialism" into taking the lead against Nigeria, so aligning itself with Western democracies rather than its natural Third World allies.

ANC radicals were disconcerted to see the black American leader, Louis Farrakhan, go from South Africa to Lagos where he strongly endorsed the Abacha regime, rejecting Western criticism as white racism. The feeling has been growing within ANC and Communist Party circles that it might be best quietly to ditch Mr Mandela's human rights stand.

The Nigerian opposition's plan to hold a large conference, and even establish its headquarters, here must have

Nigerian top brass sacked

Lagos Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, sacked his army and air force chiefs in a surprise move that further shakes the unstable nation. According to a terse government statement on Saturday night, Major-General Abubali Kazir and Vice-Marshal Femi John Remi were replaced "effective immediately" by Major-General Ishaya Bamaiyi and Air Commodore Nsikak Eduek. (AP)

seen like a large step in the wrong direction. South African embassies quietly refused to grant General Sani Abacha's opponents visas. At the eleventh hour, the ANC's inner cabinet, the National Working Party, invited the organisers to cancel. The conference went ahead, but on a reduced scale and without publicity. Only Nigerians with British, American or Canadian passports were able to get into South Africa, leaving most delegates to meet at a separate conference in Norway.

Communist Party spokesmen here claimed the Abacha regime had stopped dissidents from leaving — a version of reality rebuffed by those Nigerians who did attend.

Mr Soyinka and his compatriots are seeking clarification of the South African Government's attitude, hoping to hold it to Mr Mandela's human rights commitment. However, Mr Soyinka, bitterly attacking Mr Farrakhan for "wining and dining with our oppressors", scathingly suggested that those who believed military dictatorship was the appropriate form of government for the world's largest black nation were betraying their "slave mentality".

His speech shows Pretoria's dilemma. It does not wish to be at odds with the rest of Africa, but if the Government ditches Nigeria's democratic opposition, it could find that same rhetoric directed at the Mandela Government.

Gunboat blown up by Tigers

Colombo Tamil Tiger rebels staged a seaborne suicide raid and attacked a military base in eastern Sri Lanka. At least 54 people were killed, officials said yesterday.

The Tigers rammed a boat laden with explosives against a gunboat, escorting a naval convoy taking supplies to the Jaffna peninsula, killing ten sailors. Helicopter gunships went to the rescue, sinking eight rebel boats. The military claimed 35 Tigers were killed. In Batticaloa, in the east, Tigers attacked two military posts, killing three soldiers and six civilians. (AP)

Queen's official rejects republic

Sydney: Bill Hayden, who retired in February as Australia's Governor-General, has compared the move to a republic to "tarting up" an old vehicle you own, renaming it and buying it back as "somehow improved" (Roger Maynard writes). The Queen's former representative made the comments in his autobiography, published this week.

Sunken ships put Gulf at risk

Kuwait City: An environmental catastrophe could hit the coastlines of the Gulf states if more than 200 vessels, including oil tankers and gunships that were sunk during ten years of conflict, remain unsalvaged, Mahmoud Abdul Raheem, a marine expert, claimed. (AP)

BLUE CAN WARNING.



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Brussels directive E-3240 B outlaws the sale of cola after its "best before" date.

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Virgin strongly advises its customers to avoid all blue cans of Virgin Cola. They are clearly out of date.

Rockets fired into Galilee

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

THE United States, Israel and Syria attempted yesterday to prevent an escalation of violence in Lebanon after pro-Iranian guerrillas fired nearly 30 Katyusha rockets into Galilee.

The Hezbollah attacks forced tens of thousands of Jews into shelters and the evacuation of holiday sites preparing for this week's Passover.

over holiday. The renewed violence came as a severe blow to the Israeli tourist industry, already hit by thousands of cancellations from potential Passover and Easter holidaymakers deterred by the continuing threat of more suicide attacks by Islamic extremists. The confrontation line settlements have been put on emergency status and all necessary precautions have been taken," said Yossi Goldberg, the chairman of the council in

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US agents pursue hacker of secrets across cyberspace

By IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND
GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE United States authorities are seeking the extradition of an Argentine computer hacker who managed to penetrate top-secret American defence files from his bedroom in Buenos Aires.

Julio César Ardita, 21, used a basic computer at his parents' flat to gain access to Pentagon, NASA and US Navy files, obtaining information about nuclear installations and defence programmes.

In a landmark case of a hacker being counter-hacked, US investigators used the first-ever court order allowing them to bug the Internet to trace the Argentine student.

Señor Ardita started infiltrating US government computer networks a year ago. The Americans claim that while the information was confidential it did not include national security secrets. But they want to interrogate him to find out what he obtained and whether he passed it on.

"This is the biggest cybernetic theft case of the electronic communications era," said Donald Stern, a prosecutor in Boston, who made the extradition request. The Argentine authorities have arrested Señor Ardita but say that the extradition treaty with the US does not include "information crimes".

In Washington, the Justice Department said the case was a preview of an era of cybersleuthing, in which FBI agents will spend time at terminals navigating through a web of electronic leads to catch com-

puter crooks. The hacker's father, Julio Rafael Ardita, a retired military officer, told *The Washington Post* that if the systems his son allegedly broke into were vulnerable to a modest home computer there must be something seriously wrong with US security.

"Obviously the North Americans are not very clear about the security of their systems if a kid from South America can enter. I would be ashamed to admit it," he said. His son was alleged to have

I've infiltrated the US Navy.
I have even seen inside submarines.

entered Harvard University computers via the Internet and from there penetrated other networks, including Los Alamos National Laboratory where the first atom bomb was built, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the US Navy's Research Laboratory in Washington and its Control and Ocean Surveillance Centre in San Diego.

The trail began last August when the US Navy discovered files with whimsical names like Zap and Pingo showing up in its most sensitive computers. Monthly telephone bills of up to £1,150 also led his parents to make inquiries.

"I've infiltrated the US Navy. I've even seen inside submarines and much more," Señor Ardita said in the recordings. "I could very easily have wiped out files and rubbed out any information."

Dole taxed by wages issue

By IAN BRODIE

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S opening salvo against Bob Dole, his election opponent, is a demand for him to stop blocking a Senate vote that would raise the minimum wage. It is a popular issue. Polls show that three out of four American voters support an increase in the minimum pay of \$4.25 (£2.80) an hour, a

figure that has remained unchanged for five years. Mr Clinton is proposing an increase to \$5.15 in two 45-cent steps over the next two years. Mr Dole, the Senate Republican leader, is easily skewered on the topic. Senators' pay has gone up by a third in the past five years to \$133,600 while about four million Americans have been stuck at \$4.25 an hour and another eight mil-

lion earn barely a dollar more.

A full-time worker on the minimum wage earns \$8,500 a year, almost half the poverty line set for a family of four. With the effects of inflation, the minimum wage is at its lowest level for 40 years.

Yet Mr Dole insisted during a Senate debate last week that raising the minimum would result in the sacking of tens of thousands of workers.

For all its influence, however, the NRA is at last suffering from increased public concern

The Atlantis shuttle making a textbook landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California early yesterday at the end of a ten-day voyage to the Mir Russian space station.

On Saturday *Atlantis* came within minutes of having to undertake an emergency return to Earth when its cargo-bay doors refused to open to allow heat to escape (Ian Brodie writes). The crew of five were unable to open the doors when two control switches signalled that four of 16

latches had failed to release. The doors finally did open, however, and the shuttle remained in orbit for another day. "Everybody sighed with relief when the doors opened," said Jeff Bantle, flight director at Mission Control in Houston. "Nervous? Yeah. Tense? Yes. Everybody was on the edge of their chairs. But they all responded very well." The crisis

began after the doors had been readied for a landing attempt at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. The landing was cancelled because of cloudy skies. The doors needed to be reopened to allow radiators in the cargo bay to dispel heat from the shuttle's power and electronic systems. While they remained shut, the shuttle would

have been able to remain in space for only four more hours before the heat build-up would have started to damage electrical circuits.

When Mission Control ordered the astronauts to make visual checks of the latches, it was found they had all unbolted and the crew was ordered to override the automatic system and open the doors. Mr Bantle said that in ten more minutes he would have ordered *Atlantis* to return to Earth — fast.

Foot soldiers desert US gun lobby

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE seemingly impenetrable facade of the National Rifle Association has finally begun to crack.

In the past year, America's foremost gun rights lobbying group has lost 400,000 members, a 12 per cent drop. Contributions to its political action committee fell by more than a fifth.

The NRA is far from being counted out. It still lavishes money on members of Congress and wields influence over their votes. Only last week House Republicans kept their promise to the NRA by repealing a ban on some of the deadliest assault weapons, a move President Clinton has sworn to veto.

For all its influence, however, the NRA is at last suffering from increased public concern

and a sustained counter-campaign by anti-gun lobbyists — including hundreds of police forces — over the spread of weapons and violent crime.

The Dunblane tragedy received wide and sympathetic coverage in the United States, with considerable public interest in the technicalities of obtaining a British gun licence and the subsequent calls for a ban on all guns outside clubs and target practice.

The NRA, as it were, shot itself in the foot with a fundraising letter last year that described federal agents as "jack-booted government thugs". In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, the strident rhetoric was widely criticised as an incitement to anti-government militias.

George Bush, the former Presi-

tumbled to 3.1 million. Contributions to its political action committee have declined from \$1.74 million (£1 million) to \$1.36 million last year.

Tanya Metaksa, the NRA's legislative director, said the drop in membership was due in part to a \$10 increase in annual dues to \$35. The loss of political donations was attributed to a lack of motivation after Republicans took control of Congress.

As evidence of the NRA's continued power, she cited the passage of laws in seven states giving citizens the right to bear concealed arms. The states include Texas where one man has already been shot dead at traffic lights during an alteration over a clipped wing mirror. A grand jury cleared the gunman of murder.

Seeking happiness in a pill bottle

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

IF THE cliché about the excitable Gallic temperament no longer seems quite so accurate it may be due more to chemical assistance than any natural calming of the national psyche.

France is the world's leading consumer of tranquillisers and anti-depressants, a report published last week confirmed. Troubled by recessionary woes, millions of French are taking three times more tranquillisers, anti-depressants and sleeping tablets than their more stoic British and German cousins.

Even the Italians take only half the number of calmants.

Professor Edouard Zarifian, a leading French psychiatrist and the report's author, says a massive 11 per cent of adults regularly take tranquillisers and anti-depressants. Women over 60 and the unemployed are among the heaviest users.

More than 30 per cent of older women take tranquillisers regularly while an unemployed person is more than twice as likely to be prescribed anti-depressants as someone in full-time work.

Professor Zarifian blames a medical profession insufficiently trained in psychiatric problems and the pharmaceutical industry's aggressive marketing strategies.

'Shock jocks' trumpet American divisions

New York: Two radio disc jockeys have been forced to apologise after they entered a Colorado mosque and, wearing turbans, played the American national anthem on two cornets (Quentin Letts writes). They disturbed the faithful and asked: "What's the matter? Don't you believe in the national anthem?"

The escapade was broadcast live on the Denver radio station, KBPI, which employs the two "shock jocks". It has agreed to apologise to the mosque in newspaper and



Abdul-Rauf: anthem 'a symbol of oppression'

Montana militiaman surrenders to FBI

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

ANOTHER member of the Freemen anti-government militia was in police custody yesterday as more than 100 FBI agents maintained their week-long siege of the group's compound. They did so under the gaze of many militia members who had travelled from other parts of America to the plains of Montana to monitor the federal operation.

Richard Clark, 47, a farmer, surrendered to police 100 miles from the Freemen's Justus Township ranch. He was away from the compound when the

siege began last Monday with the arrest of the group's ringleader, LeRoy Schweitzer, and a colleague, Daniel Petersen. The men were tricked out of the compound by an undercover FBI agent.

Mr Schweitzer, who appeared in military fatigues at a court in Billings, the nearest city, yesterday ended a five-day hunger strike after being moved to a prison hospital in Missouri. Mr Petersen, when he appeared in court, shouted: "You watch, folks. When it goes, it'll be worse than Waco."

The FBI wants to avert any repetition of the violence at a similar siege last year in Waco, Texas, but the Freemen are

believed to have at least 11,000 rounds of ammunition and many guns.

The Freemen do not recognise the authority of the federal government, and allegedly ran a forgery and tax evasion school for like-minded rebels. For more than a year they have frightened residents in the nearby village of Jordan.

The FBI decided to take action a week after an exasperated Jordan villager, Tom Stanton, recruited a 25-strong posse armed with hunting rifles and disclosed plans to attack Justus Township. The FBI has arrest warrants for 13 of the Freemen, estimates of whose number vary from 20 to 60.

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MERCURY
COMMUNICATIONS



JY/10150

Terror tactics give Kohl weapon to ensure euro keeps its 1999 deadline

Engrossing though the beef dispute with the rest of Europe may be for ministers and MPs who can think about little else except the next election, pay careful attention to a date in the European Union calendar that will have more impact than Friday's jamboree in Turin and will matter more than mad cows.

In just under fortnight, Ken Clarke and his fellow finance ministers will attend a working weekend in the Palladian splendour of Verona. The agenda is packed with bland jargon that hides

the meaning of what is going on: a "stability pact" for a single currency, the "ins and outs" debate and a new currency grid dubbed "son of ERM". The ministers will actually be mulling over plans for a redesign of the European economy. Their blueprints will affect the pay packet, mortgage and job security of every European far more directly than anything discussed in Turin.

The plans laid in Verona will work only if the "euro" becomes the single currency in some EU countries in 1999 — and real life has a habit of

upsetting grand designs. The French and German political establishments admit no doubts, however: monetary union can and will happen.

Two days just spent at a "Konigswinter" conference in the company of German opinion-makers gave me a fascinating glimpse of how Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, hopes to demolish those obstacles littering the road to monetary union. His strategy is neither pretty nor reassuring.

Among his fellow leaders, Herr Kohl works by what nuclear weapons experts would

call "balance of terror". Any Prime Minister who speaks against monetary union is given the cold shoulder. Save for John Ma-

jor, this works. Swedes are probably at least as dubious about a single currency as Britons, but the Swedish Government keeps many of its doubts under wraps.

Herr Kohl has bigger problems with his own countrymen, who show no sign of wanting the euro in their wallets. Bankers and journalists may voice coded monetary union warnings, but openly doubting the single currency is like questioning the final goal (*das Endziel*) of the Nazi Government, one senior German journalist told the conference. Dissent-

vote for the opposition, you may be out." In German politics, this sales pitch will be strong magic. The postwar German generation has been brought up to believe that every German is a stakeholder in the business of proving that Germany will never threaten Europe with war again.

This stark choice for the German voter will be accompanied by persuasion and pressure on France and Britain. France will be made to pay the price of its insistence that Germany give up the mark by agreeing to far

closer political integration than it wishes. "There must be parallels in sacrificing sovereignty," Jürgen Stark, the German junior Finance Minister, said a few days ago. "Put it simply: we will only pay our police in euros when they are allowed to operate across borders in Europe."

For Herr Kohl, Britain is a lesser problem; his latest hope is to take business away from the City if Britain stays out, and wait for impoverished businessmen to become campaigners for the euro.

GEORGE BROCK



THIS WEEK
IN EUROPE

one have called a "balance of terror". Any Prime Minister who speaks against monetary union is given the cold shoulder. Save for John Ma-

Yeltsin announces Chechen ceasefire and troop pullout

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN attempted to try to clear up the biggest political headache in his re-election campaign yesterday, when he announced a ceasefire and a partial troop withdrawal from Chechnya.

In a national television address Mr Yeltsin admitted that the 15-month war in Chechnya was "Russia's biggest problem".

Hunting at greater flexibility than Moscow has displayed in a year, he said he was prepared to talk to General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the rebel Chechen leader, but only through intermediaries. A Chechen official said the offer was not good enough.

General Vyacheslav Tikhonirov, Russia's top commander in Chechnya, said yesterday that it was impossible to stop all military operations in the breakaway region immediately.

Even as Mr Yeltsin was speaking, there were reports that Russia's helicopter gunships and fixed-wing aircraft were attacking the village of Osikovye, a rebel stronghold 20 miles south of Grozny, the Chechen capital.

Chechnya has become a vital election issue for Mr Yeltsin as he struggles to be re-elected for a second term as President on June 16. A recent poll in the *Segodnya* news-

paper identified the war as the most important issue for voters.

The new plan, which has been heralded many times and frequently delayed, is aimed at scaling down the war. That should at least take it off Russian television screens during the election campaign.

Most army units will be pulled out and interior ministry troops and local police loyal to the Moscow-installed Chechen Government will take on the bulk of their work. Local elections will be held within the next few months

Minsk march backs treaty

Minsk: Tens of thousands of demonstrators, mostly Communists, marched in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, yesterday in support of President Lukashenko's plan, announced last week, to negotiate a treaty forging a stronger union between the republic and Russia. Hundreds of students held a counter-demonstration denouncing the treaty. A week earlier, 15,000 people held a similar march. (AP)

and a new treaty will be signed giving Chechnya a high level of autonomy within the Russian Federation.

However, a leading rebel representative dismissed the speech as pre-election window-dressing. In Istanbul, Usman Imayev, who led the Chechen negotiating team at talks last summer, said the main issue — of negotiations between General Dudayev and the Russian authorities on the status of Chechnya — remained unresolved.

Moscow has branded General Dudayev a criminal and put out a warrant for his arrest. The general has said he is prepared to continue the war with Russia "for 50 years" and insists on nothing less than full independence for Chechnya.

"The minimum we ask is a meeting with Yeltsin or [Viktor] Chernomyrdin," said Mr Imayev, referring to the Russian Prime Minister. "The maximum is negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations. The Russian Federation cannot solve this on its own."

In the past few weeks, Russian forces have conducted a brutal offensive that was clearly designed to secure a maximum military advantage before the peace plan was unveiled. Several southern

and western villages were shelled and bombed, causing heavy civilian casualties. At the same time, other villages were coerced into signing "peace agreements".

Mr Yeltsin did not say all hostilities would stop and left the ceasefire open to a wide margin of interpretation.

"Of course we will not tolerate terrorist actions. Re-

sponses to them will be adequate. The security of Russian citizens must be strictly maintained," he said.

Leading article, page 17

Bosnian 'massacre site' to be examined

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE

Tito's widow 'held prisoner' in Serbia

BY DESSA TREVISAN AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

JOVANKA BROZ, the widow of Marshal Tito — the architect of postwar Yugoslavia — claims she is being kept a virtual prisoner by Serbia and her life under guard in Belgrade, the capital, is a misery.

"I am very hurt by the way they have treated me. I live alone, and am surrounded only by people whose duty it is to keep an eye on me," she says in an interview with a Belgrade weekly. "I have neither a passport nor any other document. Even when I visit my relatives or few friends, I have to inform the guards."

Jovanka married Tito in 1952 when she was 28 years old and he 60. They met when

she fought for the Partisans during the Second World War. Days after his death in 1980, she was forced to leave Tito's residence, the White Palace. She has since lived in a house in the luxurious Belgrade suburb of Detelinje.

Jovanka was ostracised by Tito for the last three years of his life when he was said to have taken two mistresses as mistresses. She says: "Tito was everything to me. I played my whole life on just one card — that I am the wife of Marshal Tito."

As Tito became trailer in the late 1970s, the authorities feared she would try to gain political influence. When he began his liaison with the mistresses and to live in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, she became unwelcome. In the interview, she describes how she was kept away from his deathbed.

"One day, former President Lazar Kolisevski came to me and said Tito was going into hospital and would have his leg amputated. It was the [Communist] Party Central Committee that made decisions, not the family. I was informed about Tito's death by one of the members of the collective presidency."

Tito's two sons by previous marriages were allowed to be with him in his dying days.

Although Tito lived lavishly, his personal wealth was pitifully small and he never owned any property or held foreign bank accounts.

Jovanka Broz hurt by her treatment

Baby kept terrorist out of prison

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

AMID a growing uproar over lax Italian prison conditions, senior Rome judges yesterday sought to justify allowing a convicted Red Brigades terrorist to have a child and spend nearly two years at liberty.

Cecilia Massara, 42, was rearrested at the weekend to serve the rest of her life sentence. Her son, now a year old, will live in her cell until he is three "because there is no one else to look after him", according to Alessandro Marara, head of the Rome parole board.

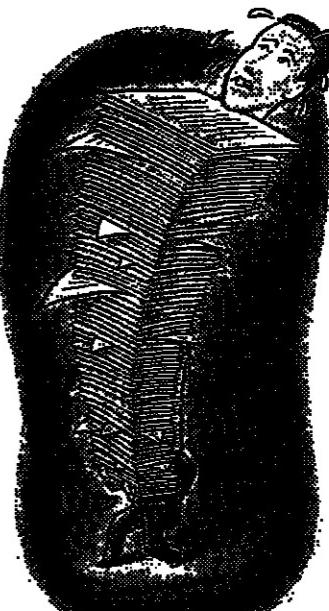
Provisions for parole and good conduct leave have been under close scrutiny since last month's escape of Majed Yousef Molqi, a Palestinian convicted of the 1985 murder of a disabled Jewish passenger on the hijacked Achille Lauro cruise ship. Molqi was arrested in Spain after three weeks on the run. Two other Palestinian terrorists who have absconded from Italian jails are at large, causing tension between Italy and other Western countries.

Massara, whose Red Brigades nickname was Carla, was arrested in 1984. She had played a leading part in attacks including the bombing of the Rome offices of the Christian Democrats, the kidnapping of a suspected informer, the murder of a judge, and the attempted robbery of an armoured security van carrying bank funds. The robbery ended in a shoot-out with police during which Massara was wounded and arrested. After a four-year investigation, she was given a life sentence in 1988.

"She married a fellow Red Brigades terrorist, Giuseppe Scirocco, in jail, and became pregnant in May 1994.

Although her sentence had been confirmed the previous year, the authorities set her free because women may not be jailed if they are pregnant, or for six months after giving birth, or for a further six months if the child has no other carer.

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DEAD-END HOST?

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**ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD**

■ VISUAL ART

At the Royal Academy,
Gustave Caillebotte is
revealed as a substantial
artist, not just a wealthy
and discerning collector
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow


■ OPERA

Isabelle Vernet takes the
title role in Scottish
Opera's staging of
Gluck's great reforming
work, *Alceste*
OPENS: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday


■ THEATRE

Dominic Dromgoole
bids farewell to the
Bush with his
production of
Clocks and Whistles
OPENS: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday


■ CABARET

Denny Laine, once
of the Moody Blues and
Paul McCartney's
Wings, brings his
hits to the Café Royal
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

The organisers of some of Britain's most exciting art events tell Simon Tait about their latest plan

Tailors of the unexpected

The duo behind some of the most controversial and successful visual art of the past few years will tonight unveil their latest project — and, as usual, say very little about it.

Artangel — run by James Lingwood and Michael Morris — first came to prominence in 1993. The year before, the two men had called a press conference at the Groucho Club to announce that they were commissioning a work by the sculptor Rachel Whiteread. "We got the press there, packed them in this tiny room, said we were doing something with Rachel — and nothing else," Lingwood says. "Up to the day of the unveiling we tried to let nobody know at all what was going on, because if we'd have said she was going to do a cast of a whole house everyone would have had an expectation of what it was going to look like and it would have been compared with those expectations."

When Whiteread's *House* was finally revealed, it well brought the house down. The sculpture was almost literally here today and gone tomorrow. It was loathed and lauded, brought derision and delight. It was the first "produced" piece of event sculpture. Whiteread won the Turner Prize, and Artangel won mainstream attention — if not acceptance.

Before joining Artangel the two were both at the ICA — Lingwood as curator of objects and Morris as director of theatre. Under them, Artangel's projects expanded. They were to be shaped by their locations alone, constructed in any medium or any combination of media.

First came Michael Clark's dance piece *Mmm...*, which created a blur of action in the King's Cross Warehouse, then Hans Peter Kuhn's *Five Floors*, devised to bring noise to a painfully silent office block. Last year saw Tatsuo Miyajima's Japan Festival Award-winning *Running Time* in the Queen's House in Greenwich, which was plunged into total blackness for a neon representation of time. Then came *For HG*, the installation by Kuhn and Robert Wilson at Clink Street Vaults, a critical success that was also seen by 20,000 people.

Artangel's latest commission will be announced tonight in an empty, almost derelict, Georgian building in St James's Square, the heart of London's clubland. There, the press will meet the Mexican sculptor Gabriel Orozco. Work, theoretically, begins tomorrow.



Artangel got Rachel Whiteread's controversial *House* off the ground. Tonight the company will reveal what it can about its new project

"What he'll do we've no idea," Morris says happily. "Gabriel will start in one building and in the next two or three months will move the project from place to place. He hasn't decided which ones yet, but we've looked at a lot. He wanted it to be in London as the heart of a certain kind of culture."

The prospect might be of the members of Boodles being greeted by "a disarming articulation of emptiness", as Orozco's New York show last year was described by a critic, or the funders at the RAC by a classic four-door Citroën with the middle third removed to create a two-seater, as Orozco did in Paris in 1994.

This will be his first time working in Britain, and he has, at least, a theme. "He's very interested in the whole English obsession with etiquette and games and clubs," Morris says. "and the rules and codes which

are often quite concealed but of enormous importance in the way we still live. It'll be something to do with that."

Lord Gowrie, the chairman of the Arts Council, will also be on hand tonight, to announce that this will be the first project in a long-term collaboration to create a fund for contemporary art. With its sponsorship partners Beck's, the brewer, Artangel has created a four-year programme which will produce one piece a year until the millennium.

Beck's has committed £125,000 to the programme, and another £125,000 will come from Artangel's panel of patrons, known as the Company of Angels. This is a group of up to 100 people a year who each contribute £300. The Angels range from the mega-rich to the fairly poor and include the rock musician Dave Stewart, the architect Piers Gough,

the property tycoon Harry Handelsman, the restaurateur Jeremy King and the art dealers Jay Jopling and Anthony D'Offay.

"Half of them are people who would want to give more if we let them, the other half will never be patrons of art again but just want to be part of a piece of work," Morris says. "With a standard £300 each nobody is more of a patron than anyone else."

The new sponsorship arrangement puts Artangel's site-specific productions — the company's word for them — on as near a firm financial footing as Morris and Lingwood dare go without making the art too safe. It is a new deal for contemporary commissioning, entailing the firm commitment to funding before the work starts which every artist needs, but seldom gets.

"Beck's is prepared to invest in the

unknown and unfamiliar, whereas every other sponsor wants to invest in the known and the familiar," Morris says. "Nobody else would have wanted to underpin *Rachel Whiteread's House*, but Beck's did and it got the dividends."

What it means is that the risk is shared with the sponsors, who effectively become co-commissioners and an intrinsic part of the project, instead of merely the bankers. "Trying to summarise our way of thinking about it, we feel there's a very volatile chemistry to this commissioning process," Lingwood says. "We know some of the things we are contributing to the mixture, but we don't try to predict what the end result will be, so we know that the excitement is not diminished for us or for the audience."

Or, from today, for the distinguished clubmen of St James's.

COMPARED with recent blockbuster events, Tuesday night's BBC Symphony Orchestra concert seemed a very temperate affair: a characteristically delicate score from the late Toru Takemitsu, introspective Mozart and tranquil Vaughan Williams.

In fact it is as dangerous to categorise the latter's *Pastoral Symphony* as innocently idyllic as it is to depict Mozart's last piano concerto (K595 in B-flat) as "valedictory". There is rather more to the *Pastoral* than green fields. Written in the shadow of the First World War, it articulates a restrained, but palpable, response to the recent horror.

Andrew Davis's account hinted unmistakably at underlying tensions in a first movement that was kept restlessly on the move. Those tensions are brought to the surface in the gentle tonal clashes at the start of the second movement, and the offstage trumpet solo had an apt elegiac air. The distant soprano solo that opens the finale (Patricia Rozario) floated down from the top of the auditorium, returning later to frame the composer's passionate plea on behalf of suffering humanity.

Mozart's K595 may not be quite the swansong it was once

BBC SO/Davis
Festival Hall

regarded but there is no denying its autumnal mood. Lars Vogt's undemonstrative reading might have shown a touch more affection in its shaping of phrases but it served well enough and served the prevalent wistful quality successfully.

Takemitsu's *Toward the Sea II* is a suite of three pieces originally written for alto flute and guitar, transcribed for alto flute, harp and strings. With its gently impressionist harmonies inevitably invoking Debussy, it is one of Takemitsu's most listener-friendly scores, establishing an equilibrium between exotic sensibility and cool, poised serenity. Patrick Gallois and Fabrice Pierre were the atmospheric flautist and harpist, and Gallois contributed an unscheduled extra item: an Aria that was Takemitsu's last completed work. Sensuous harmonies this time were implied rather than stated on the unaccompanied flute. It was a touching tribute to a lamented master.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Handel with care

King's Consort
Queen Elizabeth Hall

interpretation made his contribution the high point of the evening.

There was fine singing, too, from Yvonne Kenny as Asenath and the other members of the King's Consort team: James Bowman, Michael George, Catherine Denley and the treble, Connor Burrows, who sang with admirable poise and expressivity. But Bowman seemed vocally tired, perhaps because the piece had just been recorded for Hyperion, and one of his arias was cut.

Initially, Dean's reservations would seem to be confirmed. Part I is pleasant enough and abounds in choice items such as Joseph's prison lament and a charming flute-accompanied duet with his bride-to-be Asenath, but it is hardly gripping.

However, from the introduction of Joseph's brother Simeon in the second prison scene in Part II, the temperature rises from his first dramatic accompanied recitation to the spine-tingling suspensions in the aria in which he admits his guilt.

The performance went up a notch from precisely the same point, not least because John Mark Ainsley was cast as Simeon. Ainsley is an instinctive Handelian, and his honed tones and perfectly judged and communicated in-

terpretation made his contribution the high point of the evening.

There was fine singing, too,

from Yvonne Kenny as Asenath and the other members of the King's Consort team: James Bowman, Michael George, Catherine Denley and the treble, Connor Burrows, who sang with admirable poise and expressivity. But Bowman seemed vocally tired, perhaps because the piece had just been recorded for Hyperion, and one of his arias was cut.

It is unusual these days for a

concert to be performed after the recording sessions, and the benefits were apparent in the playing of the King's Consort (more polished than I have heard for a while) and the confident singing of the choir of New College, Oxford.

Overall, it lacked a sense of dramatic pacing, and it was a big mistake to break for the interval after Simeon's soliloquy when Handel had just got into his stride.

TESS KNIGHTON

As tears go by

POP

Marianne Faithfull
Jazz Café, NW1

WHAT better way for the singer who has lived a little to reflect on that experience than via the words of someone who lived a lot? These days, any performer who has ever woken up on Saturday morning unable to remember the latter half of Friday night feels him or herself empowered to wring the last ounce of misery and melodrama from the lurid canon of Jacques Brel or Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill. Indeed, those of a certain age rush to the edge of excess just as they can halt in the nick of time, record a thematic album, and then confidently await the critical and sales renaissance that will inevitably follow.

But if anyone is entitled to make a claim to the works of Brecht and Weill, it is Marianne Faithfull. Never the most technically blessed of singers, she can now offer a hard-won sense of character in compensation for her undisguisable lack of range.

On Wednesday, in the second of two Camden performances, she proved the potency of her own iconography by blurring distinctions between herself and the narrators she portrayed through heavily self-referential between-song asides. Prowling the small stage like a black-garbed Joycean vamp, she pursued a mainly chronological route through the Weimar

ETCS.

Accompanied only by the keyboard player Paul Truber, and relying largely on English translations by Frank McGuinness, Faithfull did not shy away from material now so familiar as to be almost unsingable (*Falling in Love Again*, *Mack the Knife*), but showed particular confidence on the less obviously picaresque (*Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, a brave *Complainte de la Seine*).

But it was her skill as a

raconteuse only too well aware of her own mythology

that gave the evening a special piquancy. While lamenting her limited skills as an actress, she was interrupted by a cry of "What about *Girl on a Motorcycle*?" "Yes," she replied, with a proud toss of her head. "I remember that. Vaguely."

ALAN JACKSON



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CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BRUCKNER'S FIFTH SYMPHONY
Reviewed by Jonathan Swain

What is good Bruckner acoustic? In the case of the Fifth Symphony it has to be one that will allow depth and brilliance to a massive organ-like blaze of brass, and one which does not confuse the intricacy of this "contrapuntal masterpiece" (the composer's description). A tall order.

Dohnányi and the Cleveland Orchestra (on Decca) tamed the Symphony to fit it into a small acoustic; DG played tricks with both the tone of the Vienna Philharmonic and the hall acoustics in its Abbado recording, to produce something bright, clear and curiously unspecific. Both Chailly (Decca) and Haitink in his first recording for Philips, have the perfect Bruckner hall (and orchestra) in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, but the former's recording sounds, like a run-through, and although Haitink's remains a good buy as part of a complete Bruckner cycle at budget price, there are



more imaginative options. Haitink's remake with the Vienna Philharmonic (Philips) brings, as before, the benefits of steady, integrated tempos, but is rather dour.

The final choice rests with the two Abbado recordings, to produce something bright, clear and curiously unspecific. Both Chailly (Decca) and Haitink in his first recording for Philips, have the perfect Bruckner hall (and orchestra) in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, but the former's recording sounds, like a run-through, and although Haitink's remains a good buy as part of a complete Bruckner cycle at budget price, there are

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■ MUSIC

Steven Isserlis plays Elgar's Cello Concerto in the Albert Hall with Vernon Handley and the Royal Philharmonic CONCERT: Thursday REVIEW: Saturday



■ POP

Back like a bat out of hell, Meat Loaf brings his beefy broth of bombast and ballads to Manchester GIG: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



■ FILM

Kevin Spacey stars in the new American satire about Hollywood, *Swimming With Sharks* OPENS: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS

Characters are caught in the grip of erotic obsession in Doris Lessing's new novel, *Love, Again*
IN THE SHOPS: Now REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE: The call of the wild in W6; and women in thrall to the land

The vixen and the Victorian

Lady into Fox
Lyric Studio, W6



Who is Silvia, what is she? So asked Shakespeare in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and answered his own question in high romantic fashion, by proclaiming her holy, wise, kind and full of heaven-given grace. She was, in short, rather different from the Silvia of David Garnett's short story, *Lady into Fox*, who begins by epitomising traditional womanliness and ends up a sleek red animal, living dangerously with her cub and mate in an Oxfordshire wood.

Garnett wrote his fantasy in 1922, a time when the British were busily questioning Victorian values and, if they dared, throwing off Victorian constraints. It is no accident that he set it 40-odd years earlier and in the sort of house where tasseled drapery hides the table legs. But there are dark truths in the piece that transcend 1880, 1922 and, for that matter, 1996: which is doubtless why Neil Bartlett and Nicolas Bloomfield have transformed it into the fascinating post-Asiopian oratorio now passing through W6.

Silvia Tebrick's change of species happens in a twinkling, and her husband at first cannot accept it. He keeps enjoining decorum on a wife who snaps at him, rips off her clothes, tears a pet rabbit into ribbons and scratches and howls piteously at the door that he ends up agreeing to let her out. Happiness for her means whelping in the wild, even at the risk of being torn apart by foxhounds. Thus do Garnett and his adapters suggest that beneath the lady is a woman and beneath the woman is a creature whose every instinct rebels against the class-bound, male-run, convention-ridden civilisation into which history has plunged her. She might be Lady Chatterley with four legs and a tail.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

The daughters of toil

Bondagers
Donmar Warehouse

his wife or daughter, then a woman whom he could persuade to join his family in their cottage. Her job was to slave in the fields from January to December, hoeing, sowing, weeding, reaping, stooking, lifting heaps and tatties, and a score of other tasks.

Glover's play follows the fortunes and griefs of a group of such women from one Hiring Day to the next. In their grey skirts and coal-scuttle bonnets, they jab their hoes slowly across the clay field, singing some ancient chant. The light changes and

they are indoors gossiping. Many of the men have taken a passage to Saskatchewan and a life offering better rewards and independence. One of the women went with her husband as far as Greenwich but the last moment could not bring herself to leave her homeland. "These fields are my calf-ground," she explains. The dialogue is rich in vivid images of this quality, images

typically drawn from the natural world, for this is a community unswervingly ruled by the march of the seasons and the demands of the land. Brown's achievement, and of course Glover's too, is to have made this material so utterly engrossing. We become involved in the women's erotic longings, feel their sense that they are little more than ghosts in the landscape. The movements of their toil become rhythmic patterns; the lighting (by Paule Constable) draws us through the year.

This production was seen at

the Traverse during last year's Edinburgh Festival and the company has been reassembled for a short tour, though it stays at the Donmar until April 6. The six women interact with wonderful care and precision, playing troubled mothers (Carol Anne Crawford, Ann-Louise Ross), eager girls (Julie Duncanson, Hilary MacLean), the lady (Rosaleen Pelen) and the simple visionary (Kathryn Howden).

All give performances of total conviction, recreating for us a vanished world at a point where change was in the air but had yet to ease their life on the ground.

JEREMY KINGSTON

The title may suggest that what we have here is the latest report on harness and restraints from the S&M front, and the suspicion would seem confirmed, on learning that the director is Ian Brown, the man who directed the first production of *Transporting* and two of Brad Fraser's coldly passionate portraits of urban Canada. An evening of instruction in contemporary city horror looks imminent.

Nothing of the sort. Sue Glover's fine and moving play is set on a remote Borders farm in the middle of the last century. We learn that the custom of the time was for a farmer to hire a male worker on condition that he brought a female worker with him. If not

he ends up agreeing to let her out.

Happiness for her means whelping in the wild, even at the risk of being torn apart by foxhounds. Thus do Garnett and his adapters suggest that beneath the lady is a woman and beneath the woman is a creature whose every instinct rebels against the class-bound, male-run, convention-ridden civilisation into which history has plunged her. She might be Lady Chatterley with four legs and a tail.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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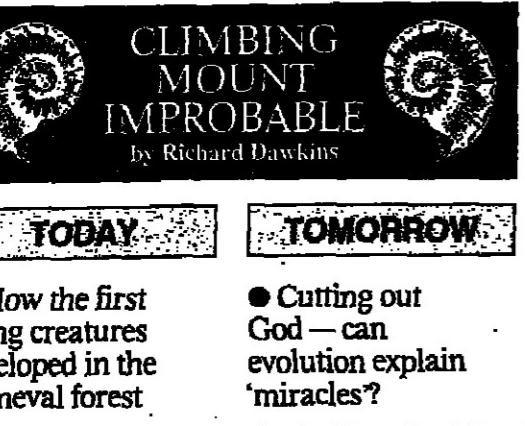
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To fly has for so long been a hopeless dream of humanity and, when we achieve it, do so with such difficulty that it is easy to exaggerate how hard it is. Flying is second nature to the majority of animal species. Even among warm-blooded vertebrates, more than half the species fly. Flying seems formidable to us mainly because we are large animals.

If you are a very small animal, the conquest of the air is no problem. When you are very small, the harder challenge may be to stay on the ground.

Imagine a perfectly scaled-down hippopotamus, the size of a flea. The height (or length, or width) of the real hippo is perhaps a thousand times that of the flea-hippo. The weight of the hippo is then a billion times that of the flea-hippo. The surface area of the hippo is a mere million times that of the flea-hippo. So the flea-hippo has 1,000 times greater surface area for its weight than the large hippo.

It feels like common sense to say that a scaled-down miniature hippo would find it easier to float in the breeze than a full-sized hippo, but it is sometimes important to see what lies behind common sense.

For vertebrates true powered flight has evolved independently in birds, bats and pterosaurs. One possibility is that true flight grew out of the habit of gliding between trees, which lots of animals do. There is a whole world of life in the treetops. For most of the inhabitants of the forest their world is a vast, gently undulating

The first flying animals may have simply glided'

ing, sunlit green meadow which just happens to be raised up on stilts.

The landscape is not literally unbroken. The aerial meadow is pock-marked with holes where it is possible to fall through to the ground: gaps that need to be bridged. Many kinds of animals are well equipped to leap across quite large gaps. The difference between a successful leap and an unsuccessful one could be a life and death matter. Any change in body shape that has the effect of extending the leaping range a little further could be an advantage. The difference between a squirrel and a rat lies in the tail. The squirrel's tail is feathery with hairs that give it a large surface area to catch the air. A rat with a squirrel's tail would undoubtedly be able to leap a larger gap than a rat with a rat's tail. And, if the ancestors of squirrels had rat-like tails, there would be a continuous ramp of improvement, becoming more and more feathery.

To begin with an ancestor like an ordinary squirrel, living up trees but without any special gliding membrane, leaps across short gaps. However far it can leap without the aid of any special flaps of skin, it could leap a few inches further if it had a very slight flap of skin, or a very slightly increased bushiness of the tail. So natural selection favours individuals with slightly pouched skin around the arm or leg joints, and this becomes the norm.

Now, any individuals with an even larger skin web can leap a few inches further. After many generations, species like the flying squirrels have



Dawkins suggests that the ancestors of today's predators might have started to develop flying skills when they leapt into the air in pursuit of insects such as this dungfly

The conquest of the air

evolved, capable of gliding hundreds of feet, and capable of steering themselves into a controlled landing.

It is possible that true flying evolved from gliding ancestors like these. It is easy to imagine true flapping flight evolving from repetition of the muscular movements used to control glide direction. Some biologists, however, think that true flight began on the ground, rather than up trees.

Flying fish take off in this second way, though from the sea rather than the land. They swim at great speed in the water and then shoot out into the air, presumably to the consternation of pursuing predators in the water from whose point of view they would vanish.

Flying fish illustrate the principle that if a gliding animal can move sufficiently fast along the surface it can take off. The principle might work for birds, because they evolved from two-legged dinosaurs some of which probably ran very fast along the ground before. A flying insect is perfectly capable of taking evasive action, and the leaping predator would benefit from skill in mid-course correction. The trick is to shift your centre of gravity and the obvious bits to move are the arms. Once the arms are being moved for this purpose, they become more effective at it if they develop surfaces to catch the air.

On the tree-gliding theory, the original role of the proto-

If you are small enough, then flight is no problem'

wings was to provide lift. Only later were they used for control, and then finally flapping. On the jumping-for-insects theory, control came first, and only later were the arms with their surfaces commandeered to provide lift.

The beauty of this is that the same nervous circuits as were used to control the centre of gravity in the jumping ancestor would, rather effortlessly, have lent themselves to controlling the flight surfaces later in the evolutionary story.

Perhaps birds began flying by leaping off the ground, while bats began by gliding out of trees. Or perhaps birds, too, began by gliding out of trees. The debate continues.

From *Climbing Mount Improbable* by Richard Dawkins, published by Viking on April 25 (£20). © Richard Dawkins 1996

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Why we exist



Richard Dawkins

RICHARD DAWKINS, the controversial Oxford biologist, will argue at a Times/Dillons forum that Darwin has the answers to all nature's complexities.

The forum, to be held on Thursday, April 25, marks the publication of Professor Dawkins's latest book, *Climbing Mount Improbable* (Viking, £20). He will discuss the difference between accident and design in nature and will show how DNA has progressed through geological time to create our rich variety of plant and animal life.

Chaired by Sir John Maddox, the former editor of *Nature*, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Professor Dawkins's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-915 6611, or by sending the coupon and your remittance to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

Please send me ticket(s) at £10 each (concessions £7.50) for the Richard Dawkins Forum at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 on Thursday, April 25

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Research triggers rethink on cancer therapy and transplants □ Ancient tools yield bitumen clues

Immunity is alarming

ONE OF THE solidest of scientific theories has come under assault. In the 1950s, F. MacFarlane Burnet in Australia and Sir Peter Medawar in Britain established that the immune system has to be educated before it can recognise and attack invaders such as bacteria and viruses.

The clinching experiment was Medawar's: he showed that while adult mice reject skin transplants from other mice, newborn mice do not, apparently unable to distinguish 'self' from 'non-self'.

Now these venerable experiments have been thrown into doubt. Three different teams report in *Science* that not only can newborns recogni-

tion foreign material if it is presented to them in the right way, but also that adults can, under appropriate conditions, tolerate foreign material. If accepted, the new results imply that giving immunosuppressive drugs to transplant recipients is ultimately the wrong policy.

The T-cells, which launch the attack on an invader, do not respond to that invader —

or antigen — alone. They need a second signal, from the cells carrying the antigen on its surface, the so-called antigen-presenting cells. And some of these are far more effective than others.

Working at the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland, Drs Epihram Fuchs and Polly Matzinger showed that B cells, one type of antigen-presenting cells, were far less effective than another type, the dendritic cells, which are long, stringy cells able to reach out and contact the T-cells.

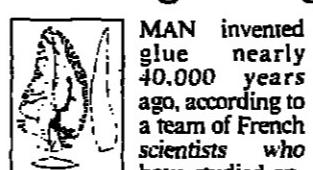
By increasing the amounts of dendritic cells, Dr Fuchs got newborn mice to respond to antigens, and Dr Matzinger did the opposite, boosting the B cells and persuading adult mice to become tolerant to grafts.

In another paper in the same issue of *Science*, a team



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

How Stone Age man got all glued up



MAN invented glue nearly 40,000 years ago, according to a team of French scientists who have studied ancient stone tools from a site in Syria. The tools are covered with traces of bitumen, used to attach them to wooden hafts.

The bitumen — a material now used for surfacing roads and waterproofing roofs — appears to have been heated to make it a more effective glue.

The team, led by Dr Eric Boëda of the University of Paris in Nanterre, analysed black material on the stone tools from a site at Umm el Tiel in Syria using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry.

The presence of alkanes and aromatics containing 15 carbon atoms confirm that it is weathered bitumen, they report in *Nature*. Where the

newborns appeared because there were simply too few dendritic cells present to produce the stimulatory signal.

Not everyone is yet convinced, but if she is right, the result could be a new approach to immunology, cancer therapy and organ transplantation. The key will be identifying the alarm signal.

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Hip parents - who needs them?

Members of the Sixties generation are behaving like teenagers to the embarrassment of their children, says Joe Joseph

You just can't avoid them nowadays, hanging out in their Adidas trainers and velvet hipsters, with those Walkmans that leak Pulp and Blur into the underground carriage, all raving about *Trainspotting*, and that cute habit they have of calling everything "bad" when they really mean good, which just impresses the hell out of Harvey Nichols salesgirls and also Marco Pierre White, no really it does. Jezz, hip parents - who needs them?

To a teenager, it's embarrassing enough having parents at all without having parents who have tongue-studs and sing Suede in the Renault Espace when it's their turn to do the school run.

But Britain is suddenly swimming with baby-boomer mothers and fathers who hear

Adidas trainers and velvet hipsters, with those Walkmans that leak Pulp and Blur into the underground carriage, all raving about *Trainspotting*, and that cute habit they have of calling everything "bad" when they really mean good, which just impresses the hell out of Harvey Nichols salesgirls and also Marco Pierre White, no really it does. Jezz, hip parents - who needs them?

To a teenager, it's embarrassing enough having parents at all without having parents who have tongue-studs and sing Suede in the Renault Espace when it's their turn to do the school run.

These are parents who couldn't stomach punk, couldn't decipher rap, but who think that Britpop is as balm and as generation-friendly as the Beatles. Even the *Financial Times* writes articles about the current music scene.

A space alien gazing at the British "indie" record charts might assume that Oasis — at number one in both the singles and the album charts — was some marginal band that had developed a cult following among rebellious youth.

What keeps Oasis rich, however, is not the pocket money of 15-year-olds but the loose change of 45-year-old barristers and accountants and Saachi copywriters who are undergoing a second adolescence. As Ma and Pa hum, "Some might say, we will find, de-doo-de-doo-doo, Some might say, da-dum-dee-dum-dee-doo..." their mortified teenage children are just wishing they could behave like all their friends' parents and funnel their energies into something more appropriate, like campaigning for Frank Field's hits to be reissued on interactive CD-Rom.

The way Jonathan King still chirrups away about pop music and groovy this and funky that you'd think he

and instead of just trying to catch Madam Speaker's eye when he wants to register disapproval of something another MP has said, he will ape Jarvis Cocker's snub to Michael Jackson at the Brit Awards and saunter uninvited into the opposition benches and make unseemly gestures.

Teen-again parents should consider this: first, that you deny teenagers their right to rebel against grown-ups if parents are doing exactly what their children are doing; secondly, a 48-year-old woman trying to act like a teenager becomes in technical sociological jargon, "one sad mother".

There are of course some sensitive, indulgent children who take their mothers to one side and tell them that "being a liberal, open-minded kind of daughter I'm very happy for you to walk the streets of Esher wearing Patrick Cox knee-high black leather boots like those Nancy Sinatra had made for her to go walking in, just as soon as I've changed my name by deed poll and had a chance to move to Alaska".

As Noel Coward noticed,

cheap music can be strangely potent. Tunes trigger memories. Pop songs do for us what dunking madeleines did for Proust. They become punctuation marks in our lives. A song, heard years later, yanks

us back in time — often to a specific moment. To a teenage boy, Oasis's *Morning Glory* might catapult him back to his first date with Susie or Mimi. If Oasis's *Morning Glory* is also the tune that reminds his parents of the bash they held to celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary, well, the effect on family bonds could be uncomfortable. Freudians might fear the effect may even be a little kinky.

As a 50-year-old, you do not have to pine anxiously for sex all day and night indeed, often you may not be pining for sex at all. At 50 you will be pining for really kinky things — those things that you would once have been too embarrassed to confess a craving for, like reruns of *Terry And June* and discreet liposuction.

You can behave badly at home without the threat of being sent up to your room.

You can snigger at the sight of grandpa Mick Jagger still prancing around a stage in tights. At 50, it no longer matters that you weren't at Woodstock. You did, however, go to the Isle of Wight and long since vowed never to sleep in

the river by re-forming for a world concert tour, even though they now quiver with the anarchy of a Pop-linked private pension plan.

Even the Pope has robbed youth of one of its icons by wearing Doc Martens.

There are many embarrassing ways to grow old, including trying to get your hairpiece. But never seeing 15 again has many rewards.

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Matthew Parris



Journalists behave like a pack of mad dogs, excited by their own barking as they tear a story apart

In public affairs, the pit canary and the waste-tip dog offer us warnings of different kinds. Let me explain.

Remember the pit canaries? Being more sensitive than human beings are to methane, these birds keel over at the first trace, giving miners time to escape. Pit canaries exist in other fields of endeavour too. Some politicians act as political pit canaries: they may lack a useful cynicism, but when they begin to stagger on their perches, we are alerted to the possibility — no more — of a bad smell.

The waste-tip dog is different. Rubbish is what these strays live and breathe, and their systems are proof against all but the strongest poisons. So if, on any rubbish dump, you see even the dogs gasping, you should wake up to the likelihood of serious toxicity. Canaries are the first to keel over, dogs the last.

On questions of balance and responsibility in newspapers, I ask you to count me with the dogs. This is not because I am a person of unusually low personal standards, but

because of an ideological commitment to liberty. I believe the press should be free to print all manner of rubbish. I would abolish the laws of libel. Short of war, we should accept no case for state censorship, whatever the circumstances. Please do not see this columnist as less than a robust — even reckless — champion of press freedom.

But I do think that British newspapers are going mad. With each succeeding year it gets worse. We are running around like a pack of stray dogs. Something takes our interest, every single dog piles in, and we start barking at it.

For days or weeks we bark. For days or weeks nothing else, however important, can distract our attention. This is the news. This is the issue. There are no other news, there are no other issues, and nothing else matters. Aroused as much by our own and each other's noise as by the object of our transient interest, we yap and howl and snarl ourselves into a kind of mad frenzy. We keep the British public awake and fighting all night.

Then, all at once and for no particular reason — just as with dogs in the night — the barking stops. A few hours pause, perhaps for breath; a few others, sensing a diminution in noise, pause to reassess: the noise drops, the rumpus subsides, and a sense of calm and second thought develops spontaneously, rather as the rising hysteria did. Finally, as one or two stray voices bark on but with growing hesitation into the night, silence descends.

Some kind of internal Muppets.

For a while there is no other news, nothing else matters. And it is getting worse

Complex operations on children continued at Bristol Royal Infirmary despite a disastrous record

Most discussion of the National Health Service assumes that the medical quality of the service is beyond criticism and that the only question is one of funding. A story from Bristol casts doubt on that assumption.

Bristol, and the Bristol Royal Infirmary in particular, has always been regarded as the centre of medical excellence in the West Country. Now it has become apparent that in one department, cardiac surgery on infant children, the medical treatment has been gravely inadequate, and that many children have died as a result. Although the department has now been reformed, the Trust defends what happened, and the man apparently responsible is still the Trust's medical director.

Last Thursday evening, Channel 4 broadcast a special edition of *Dispatches*, which investigated the record of cardiac surgery on children at the Bristol Royal Infirmary in the first half of the 1990s. The allegation, which has already been widely reported in the West Country, is that two Bristol surgeons continued to operate on children, often very young children, in the period 1988-95, even though their clinical results were much worse than those of other leading hospitals performing the same procedures. These operations continued after concern had been expressed by their own anaesthetists, by the Royal College of Surgeons, by the professor of cardiac surgery at Bristol and eventually by the Department of Health itself. In addition, it is alleged that the parents of the children who died were in some cases given wrong information about the risks.

In the case of one infant, Daniel Willis, the surgeons were of a neonatal switch. Michaela Willis, the mother, noted in her diary at the time she had been told there was an 85 per cent survival rate in this operation. In fact there had at that time been nine previous neonatal switch operations performed at the hospital, in which

Why did they allow so many to die?

six of the babies had died, a 33 per cent survival rate. It may have been true that there was an 85 per cent survival rate taken in Britain as a whole. It was not true that there was a similar rate at the Royal Infirmary. Daniel Willis became the seventh baby to die from this procedure.

In the unit's annual report for 1989-90, alarming statistics were already being reported, showing that deaths in operations on babies under one year were twice the British average, and no doubt worse than that relative to the best centres. The consultant anaesthetist, Dr Stephen Bolin, wrote a letter expressing his concern to Dr John Roylance, who was in charge of the hospital at the time, expressing his concern at the high mortality rate. He got no response from Dr Roylance, but was referred to the then director of cardiac services, Mr James Wisheart, who was one of the two surgeons carrying out these operations. Dr Bolin was rebuked for having written to Dr Roylance, and Mr Wisheart by his account made it clear to him that "this was not the way I should proceed in the future".

However, the Royal College of Surgeons did listen. In 1992 it reviewed and confirmed the data on fatalities and warned the Department of Health. Perhaps the most authoritative quotation in the *Dispatches* report came from the President of the Royal College of Surgeons at the time, Sir Terence English. "When I reviewed the results from Bristol, it became apparent the mortality was disturbingly high. I communicated my concern to the

Department of Health and added, in conjunction with the new President of the Royal College of Surgeons, because by then I had demitted office, my own recommendation that Bristol should be de-designated." Yet as Dr Bolin comments, "the operations continued and the children continued to die".

In 1994 a new investigation was made at the request of the hospital's Trust itself and the Department of Health. This was made by Gianni Angelini, the new professor of cardiac

parents an 80 per cent success rate, which had certainly not been the experience at this hospital. Professor Angelini and Dr Bolin protested; the parents of course were not told either of the Royal Infirmary's high mortality record or that a special meeting at the hospital had been called to decide whether to go ahead. Even the Department of Health raised its anxieties with the Trust. Dr Bolin was present at the meeting, but Professor Angelini was not invited and Dr Bolin was overruled.

The Trust decided to go ahead; the operation was performed. Joshua died. Following a highly critical report on this operation, the senior of the two surgeons, Mr Wisheart, decided to give up operating on children altogether. Unfortunately, he did not even stick to that resolution. On May 1, 1995, he operated on an 18-month-old boy; the boy died. That was the very day that Dr Ash Pawada, a world-renowned surgeon, started work in Bristol. Dr Pawada has since performed 180 operations with only four deaths, and the Bristol statistics are now among the best in Britain.

For understandable reasons, Mr Dhamana and Mr Wisheart would not defend themselves to *Dispatches*. Hugh Ross, the new chief executive of the United Bristol Health Trust, appointed in 1995, made such defence as could be made. It is not a good one. He argued that "with hindsight we can now see that not everything is as we would have wished". But this was not a question of hindsight.

The most important warnings had been given early in the chapter of fatalities, many of which could presumably have been prevented. Mr Ross added: "I am sure that some parents will feel that we have let them down and that we have not done as well for them as they would have wished. Considering that these parents' children are dead, that is a gratuitously offensive understatement."

A number of questions arise. Why did the Trust not act earlier? Why were Professor Angelini's recommendations not acted on, at once and in full? Why were the later operations authorised? Why did the Department of Health fail to act on the advice of the Royal College of Surgeons? Why has there not been a public inquiry?

Mr Wisheart, who seems to have had the greatest responsibility at each stage, and in effect acted as the supervisor of his own surgical decisions, is still the medical director of the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Mr Ross accepts that Mr Wisheart's "performance, and he is the first to admit this, is less than he would have wished himself in the specific area of surgery in the past". Mr Wisheart continued operating on children despite his record of fatalities; he even operated on a child some months after he had himself decided to stop. And the child died.

There is also a national issue of the use and publication of individual outcome statistics in surgery. Some of the parents say that they would not have signed the consent forms if they had been given information about the hospital's unacceptable fatality levels. Their consents were therefore procured by information that was either misleading, as it seems to have been in some cases, or inadequate. Most of these fatalities would have been avoided if the parents had known what the Trust and the surgeons knew. Some doctors seem to have put professional solidarity ahead of the safety of their patients. If this could happen in Bristol, it could certainly happen elsewhere.

Beyond damage limitation

As the parties limber up for the election, Peter Riddell wants some answers

The Tories have at last settled on a political strategy. It isn't a bad one in the circumstances. The snag, of course, is the circumstances. In Harrogate on Saturday, John Major's case sounded coherent — a *pot pourri* of his commonsense conservatism — until you remembered what had been left out. Apart from a joke about spending his birthday at the Turin summit, there was no reference to Europe, and there was none at all to the arguments over a referendum on a single currency which so preoccupy the Cabinet. The beef panic was turned into an attack on Labour. Mr Major sounded like a company chairman presenting his business plan while barely acknowledging public criticisms of his managers and the collapse in his share price.

Still, Mr Major at least sounded as if he had a reason for wanting to remain in Downing Street. A consolidation strategy has been rejected. The Tory high command accepts that it has to offer a positive case for an unprecedented fifth term. The search that was attempted in the early Major years to find the distinctive essence of Majorism, to replace Thatcherism, has been abandoned after the presentational disasters of "back to basics" and the like.

Instead, there is a two-pronged approach: first, validating the re-election of the Tories in 1992 by pointing to the prosperity and tax cuts now coming through after the earlier "necessary" sacrifices, and second, presenting an optimistic message about the prospects for Britain in, as the dread phrase, "the enterprise of Europe" — provided we remain competitive. The emphasis is on welcoming change, to

counteract Labour's "time for a change" appeal. There is a lot of rather heavy talk, much liked by Michael Heseltine, about meeting challenges, hard work and prudence, and about how this is the only way that both lower taxes and improved public services can be afforded.

Most people may recognise the inevitability of increasing global competition, but that does not mean they accept the consequences in terms of redundancies, personal anxiety and social dislocation. That refusal gives force to Labour's campaign about economic insecurity. Mr Major acknowledged some of these worries with his proposals on law and order, parental choice in schools, expanding the role of GPs and assisting people to meet the costs of long-term residential care in old age.

The Tories are about to intensify

their warnings about what would be at risk under Labour. Ever since Tony Blair was elected Labour leader in July 1994, they have been unsure how to handle him. Ministers have veered, often in the same speech, between saying that Mr Blair is just a smiling face or Bambi (rare after his Clause Four victory), that Labour has no new policies (it already has probably too many), that Labour has stolen Tory clothes so why not vote for the real thing (confuses people) and that Labour has not really changed (not believed by voters).

Now, instead, a more sophisticated approach has been adopted: that Labour has changed its rhetoric but not its instincts. Tory strategists see a conflict between Labour's language

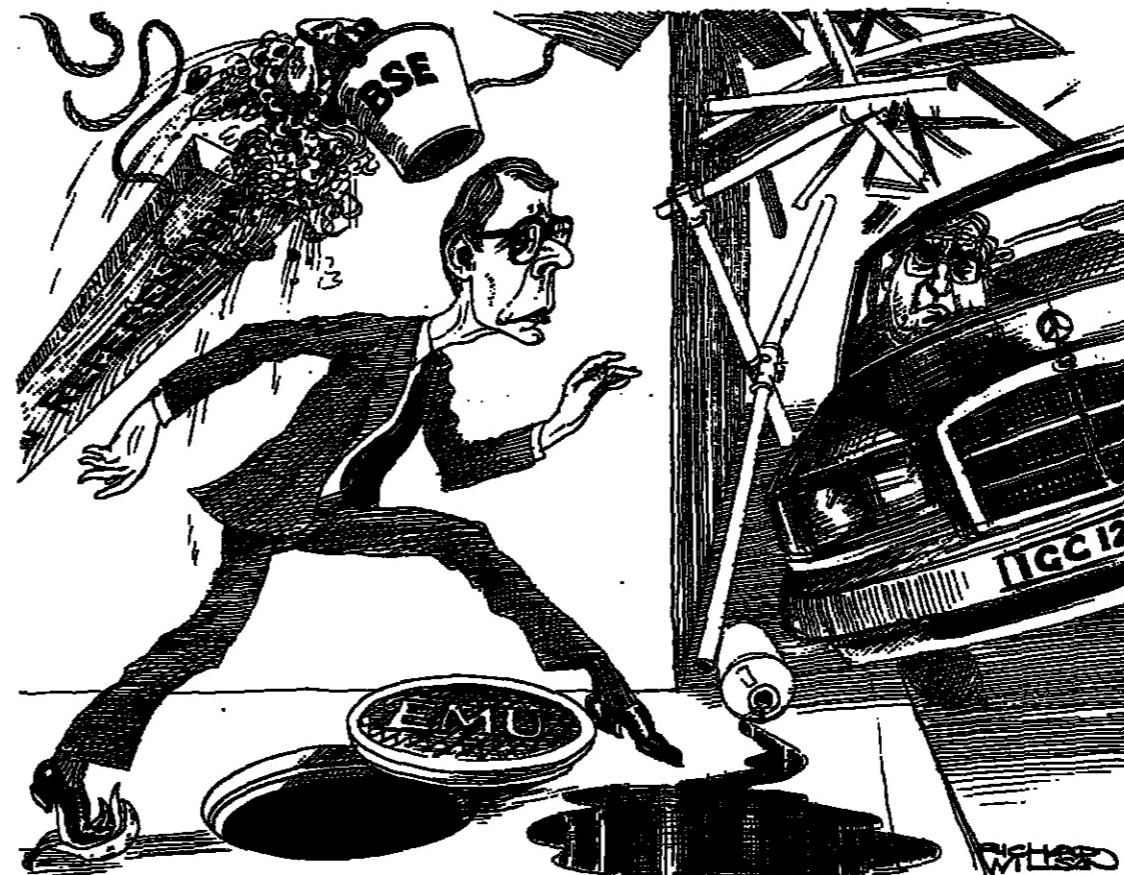
of aspiration and its specific policies: despite Gordon Brown's restraining hand, many Labour MPs believe public spending is the answer to most problems. Mr Blair may say he wants Britain to be competitive, but, the Tories argue, he supports measures such as the social chapter, the minimum wage and increased burdens on business, which would harm competitiveness. Hence the Tories' eagerness to debate with Labour about the stakeholder society, rather than the Opposition's ground of competence and government drift.

By contrast, Labour is pursuing a risk-averse strategy: avoiding spending and tax commitments, and indeed not saying or doing anything which gives the Tories any ammunition. As Mr Blair stressed yesterday, his plan for a ballot of all Labour members on its draft manifesto is intended to show that the whole party is committed to realistic policies.

The two main parties are like 18th-century armies, circling each other warily and engaging in ritual skirmishes in the form of Prime Minister's Questions. In view of their ghastly sturdiness each Tuesday and Thursday, is there any point in having a televised debate between the leaders during the election campaign? The mere suggestion of such an event was yesterday accepted with "alacrity" by Mr Blair, before cold water was poured on it by Brian Mawhinney.

As a democrat and a journalist I suppose that I should be enthusiastic. But the American experience makes me cautious. There, the format is negotiated like the peace in Bosnia: will it be a single moderator, a panel of journalist questioners or a studio audience of "real" people? James Baker, who makes Dr Mawhinney seem cuddly, famously got the better of the Dukakis campaign to benefit George Bush in the 1988 debates. There are a few hilarious pages about the preparations in 1992 — the briefing of journalists during the debates, and the satellite link-ups to offer the right "spin" afterwards — in *All's Fair* by Mary Matalin and James Carville, then rival advisers and now married. The debates consume vast amounts of time, paralysing the campaigns, and the leaders become obsessed with avoiding trivial gaffes which will be blown up out of all proportion. All the candidates want is to avoid being regarded, rightly or not, as the loser.

In Britain, there would be a danger of a prickly, negative confrontation, as so often happens in the Commons, in which neither leader would appear as he is. This might be aggravated if one of the great figures of television were the moderator. Perhaps someone less politically involved but with unquestioned authority should preside. As Sir Richard Scott, let alone Presley Baxendale, would presumably not be acceptable to the Tories, how about that arbiter of public standards, Lord Nolan? His courteous persistence might embarrass the leaders into politeness, and possibly even candour. Someone has to force them to spell out the implications of their chosen strategies.



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Miss fortune

JUST when it seemed things had reached rock bottom for the Duchess of York, she is being claimed as a friend by one of the world's barniest celebrities, Jackie Stallone, astrologer, women's mud-wrestling promoter and mother of Sylvester.

The two met in Qatar recently, when the Duchess took part in a bottom-achingly long desert horse race organised by the local Emir.

Miss Stallone, 72, is the sort of woman who centuries ago would have roamed mad and warty across the land, dismissed as a raver. She has been rude about the Queen, and once claimed to be the Princess of Wales's favourite astrologer. A couple of years ago she told anyone who would listen that her son and the Princess were likely to become romantically linked.

The Duchess is a patron of Sly's Planet Hollywood hamburger restaurants, and his business partners, the actor Bruce Willis and his wife, the actress Demi Moore, had lunch at the Duchess's home three weeks ago.

Now, in an interview with an Australian magazine, Miss Stallone claims that when the Duchess was musing out loud in Qatar about slimming pills, she intervened with the suggestion she marry a rich sheikh.

There are all these men dressed alike, all very rich and with

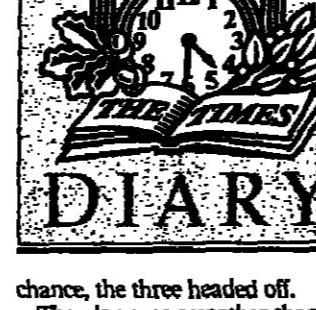
underwear," she advised the Duchess. "Perfect for a single girl." The Duchess's reaction is not recorded, but according to Miss Stallone the Duchess too is now a committed client of her fortune-telling services.

New Friends

WHEN Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Secretary, met Franz Fischer, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, in Brussels last week, he was among friends, thanks to his astute adviser, George Osborne.

Fischer, a jovial Austrian, visited London in February for talks with Hogg. After lunch, however, he found himself at a loose end for the afternoon. Osborne, 24, suggested a visit to the Cézanne exhibition at the Tate. Fischer looked excited. Tickets, however, would be harder to come by than an EU cow-slaughtering grant.

A call was put through to the Department of National Heritage. No dice. Re-enter Osborne. Producing a Friends of the Tate card, he ventured that if he could get the Commissioner in as a guest on his card, his chef de cabinet could probably sneak in as well. So, taking the



chance, the three headed off. The plan was smoother than the chef de cabinet's hair grease. While the Clintons guarded Fischer's privacy, refusing to let her be used for cheap political ends. These are desperate times for the embattled Mrs Clinton, however, so she played the Chelsea card.

Miss Clinton, 16, covered her head for the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, managed to look alert during a hot tour of Athens and exchanged repartee with soldiers in Ankara. Her father's girl, she even went into Clinton-esque sincere mode when thanking a GI in a Bosnian hospital for his commitment to global freedom (he was, in fact, a hernia patient). The travelling press was so entranced that Whitewater was barely mentioned. We may be seeing more of candidate Chelsea.

raising dinner to be addressed by you guessed it, John Redwood.

Chelsea girl

YESTERDAY saw the end of Chelsea Clinton's eight-day official visit to Europe. Throughout her trip, the First Daughter was accompanied by her mother, Hillary.

That, at least, is one way to interpret Mrs Clinton's sweep through the continent with her daughter. At the start of their presidency, the Clintons guarded Chelsea's privacy, refusing to let her be used for cheap political ends. These are desperate times for the embattled Mrs Clinton, however, so she played the Chelsea card.

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broadcast. The telephone operators at Walworth Road have never forgotten it.

Best bishop

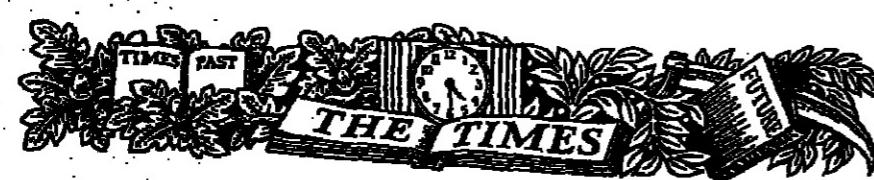
HAS April Foolery gripped The Church of England Newspaper too? Usually it is a pamphlet for the stripey-mugs-and-cardigans tendency, but this week's front page carries the Baroque headline "Play Fantasy Bishops and Win £25,000".

First select your bishop and his team, which will include suffragan bishops, archdeacons and the diocesan secretary, from any diocese you care to choose.

Points are awarded on criteria ranging from "how many new vicarages have been built" (with extra points for *en suite* facilities) to "how many clergy in distress the archdeacons have visited" and "how many clerics went over to Rome after the vote to admit women to the priesthood". Natty episcopal dressings also wins points.

The £25,000 prize is said to have been donated by a Lottery-winning suffragan bishop.

P.H.S



ANXIETY'S AGE

No politician has yet made us feel confident about change

The audience that John Major addressed on Saturday was full of elderly, experienced and loyal party officials. Eschewing the difficult topics of cows and Europe, he dwelt upon the issues that bother these most conservative of activists in their everyday lives: security, security and security. Who will look after them when they grow old, or even older? Will they have to sell their house to pay for care? How will their children and grandchildren manage if they lose their jobs? Even when Mr Major touched upon other areas, he still managed more than once to slip in the verb "to secure", in an attempt to play to his listeners' subconscious.

The Prime Minister has realised that the age of anxiety is harming his electoral chances. Why is rising prosperity not translating into economic optimism and thence to support for the Tories? Some, such as Michael Heseltine, argue simply that incomes have not grown enough to make people feel richer. Others fear that insecurity continues to cast a shadow over any increase in wealth. What use is a little more money to people if they fear that their job may go at any time, and that they then risk losing their house as well? Any extra income will have to be used to insure against exigencies that used to be covered by the State, such as long-term care or mortgage payments if they lose their job.

Tony Blair has sensed the political opportunity here. The advantage ought naturally to lie with the Conservatives: they are supposed to be the efficient, reassuring party, to be contrasted with Labour's incompetence and recklessness. But the past few years have so battered the Government's reputation that the public does not now even trust ministers who claim that it is safe to eat beef.

Both parties know that the voters of Britain are naturally conservative. That is why the Tories have been in power for most of this century. Even Margaret Thatcher's radicalism was not eagerly grasped by the electorate: each privatisation, for instance,

was opposed at the time. And that is why Mr Blair is trying to turn Labour into a decimalised Tory party, threatening little excitement and promising much moderation. He realises that, for most of the population, change is something to be feared.

But ever faster change is unavoidable. Job security cannot be guaranteed by any politician in any Western democracy. The Prime Minister may promise "secure jobs", as he did on Saturday, but he cannot deliver them.

Much more realistic was Mr Heseltine's speech. "Increasingly," he said, "the only security that will be on offer is the security that comes from the ability to change. The better our education, the more relevant our training, the more versatile our skills, the better able we will be to cope with change in a world increasingly changing."

This is why education — life-long as well as at school or university — has to be at the heart of the political debate. People need to be well enough qualified to feel confident that they will find another job should their current one disappear. The trouble is that this demands a whole new attitude from traditional Conservative voters. For today's pattern of unemployment has done more to break down class differences than any government policy. Now that middle-class and professional employees are as likely to lose their jobs as the traditional working classes, they have to reassess themselves, to define their identity and their status not by their job, but by the skills they possess.

Today's young people have been warned about the new world of work and are ready to deal with it. The problem generation consists of those aged between 25 and 55 who were brought up with the old ways and are having, painfully, to readjust their expectations. Denying that this is necessary will not fool them. But the ability to tell their story in a way which makes them feel good about themselves is something that no British politician has yet managed to grasp.

IN SEARCH OF AN EXIT

Chechenia has become a vital issue in the Russian elections

President Yeltsin's new strategy for settling the conflict in Chechenia, unveiled yesterday, may well go the sad way of previous failed initiatives. This brutal 27-month conflict, which he now describes as "Russia's biggest problem", will not easily be halted. Both sides have shown singular disregard for civilian casualties or the laws of war. Russian soldiers have engaged in arson, pillage and intimidation; Chechen fighters have resorted to hostage-taking and terrorism.

Mr Yeltsin's order to end all Russian combat operations as of midnight last night will almost certainly be tested by Chechen guerrillas and, as he made clear, Russian troops will hit back hard. His talk of extending "zones of conciliation, security and peace in the Chechen republic" will be bitterly dismissed by Chechen peasants who have seen whole villages flattened over the past few weeks by Russian troops conducting a ferocious pre-ceasefire offensive.

But what is not in doubt this time round is Mr Yeltsin's determination to prove that he is sincere about a political settlement. The reason is simple: he needs progress desperately if he is to have a chance of beating his Communist opponent, Gennadi Zyuganov, in this June's presidential elections. The war, with its shadows of the disastrous Afghan campaign, has come to dominate Russian voters' concerns. Opinion polls repeatedly show that they care more about ending the Chechen conflict than they do about bleak living standards or even organised crime — and four times as much as they care about recreating the Soviet Union.

On this last issue, Mr Yeltsin has moved deftly since last month's Communist-led vote in the Duma asserting the "legitimacy" of the old Soviet Union. The Communists are out to milk the nostalgia vote with their

"Russia, Motherland, People" campaign slogans. But the belligerent tone of the Duma resolution troubled many Russian voters, including those who support the "reintegration" of the Soviet empire as a general goal. Mr Yeltsin has seized the opportunity to show that he possesses a safer pair of hands than his opponents.

His tactic is to borrow some nationalist garb from Mr Zyuganov's coalition of "popular patriotic forces", while denouncing its jingoistic neo-imperialism as opportunist and unrealistic. His chance to regain the initiative came almost immediately after the Duma vote, when Aleksandr Lukashenko, the incompetent and undemocratic President of Belarusia, sought escape from the country's economic collapse by demanding union with Russia. Shrewdly, Mr Yeltsin fobbed him off with a deal on "economic union". Due to be signed tomorrow, this stops far short of a merger, and the Russian President has gone out of his way to insist that there is no question of Russia reabsorbing Belarusia into a single state.

Defusing Chechenia as an electoral issue will be even trickier. But with the thawing of Russia's winter snows, Mr Yeltsin appears to be recovering some of his old energy. He is still well behind Mr Zyuganov, but the gap is narrowing, and the Chechen plan is politically astute. He has offered Chechenia a new status short of independence, to be negotiated by a state commission. This is to include members of the Duma and the parliament's upper house, on the ground that the crisis can be resolved only if "all branches of the Russian federal power" co-operate. Thus, if the plan succeeds, he can claim authorship; if it fails, his opponents will no longer be able to blame him alone. This time, they too will have been involved.

WHOSE FOOL?

The best sauce for spoofs is surprise

Brevity may be the soul of wit but spontaneity is the heart of humour. The more lengthy, laboured, contorted or contrived a comic invention, the less likely it is to amuse. Whether they are cock and bull or shaggy dog, the menagerie of tall tales should be put down. That is why, quite apart from our commitment never knowingly to print an untrue word, there are no April Fool's Day spoofs on our pages today.

We print no tired jests about inventors, who have patented paint which is striped or tartan, no amazing archaeological finds of teddy bears in mummy caskets or Socrates' tomb. Novelty lent charm to some early journalistic cuttings into whimsy. When puffed-up *Panorama* reported on the failure of the Italian spaghetti harvest the BBC was, after long years encased in Reithian pin-stripes, putting on the jester's motley. As a one-off it worked, but when broadcasters make such behaviour a habit they also make it a bore. The crudest slapstick is more likely to entertain than the exhausted inventions of those whose talent for extravagant fiction is normally restricted to their expenses forms.

Our objection to the April Fool's joke is aesthetic — the tall tale is a poor relation to the genuine aristocracy of humour; the witty barb, the elegant parody, acid satire or gentle irony. There is also an economic objection. Why waste energy on spinning yarns when so much occurs naturally which

one could never make up? British taxpayers pay Spanish fishermen compensation for temporarily denying them the right to plunder our waters? Ridiculous!

The economic and aesthetic aside, there are moral objections also, and they are far from the preserve of the prig or Puritan. A Sri Lankan newspaper once printed a false prospectus for a foolproof lottery riches and provoked a violent riot among gullible readers. A Virginian radio station prompted a village to evacuate with an ugly tale about the local landfill site, which they claimed was about to suffer a methane explosion and shower the neighbourhood with rocket-propelled refuse.

Harsher voices may say these little people are foolish to believe and fonder for a belly laugh. But the generous will find it a poor sort of fun that relies on the pain of others to keep a smile on one's lips.

Occasionally, of course, there is a place for outright deception in humour. When the prank combines cunning and chutzpah as well as acting as a solvent for solemnity it takes its place at comedy's top table. Henry Root's epistolary exposure of the pompous is a case in point. But Root relied not just on mocking the mighty, but on another comic virtue — timing. The Achilles' heel of the April 1st prankster is his predictability. He tries to trick on the day all England expects it. The best sauce for spoofs is surprise.

Public confidence in sentencing

From Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP for Burton (Conservative)

Sir, The attack by David Thomas ("Real time, false logic", Law, March 26) on Michael Howard's proposal for "real-time sentencing" is unlikely to move many of my Middle England constituents.

They will be as underwhelmed by Dr Thomas's alternative suggestion that the judge should do more to explain to the criminal what his half-time sentence really means as they will be by the heartrending complaint that the Howard proposal will "throw away overnight" the delicate complex of sentencing practices developed over decades of judicial seminars.

What my constituents actually want — and surely have a right to expect — is better protection against criminals from judges, with sentences which fit the crime and last as long as the judges say they should last.

Not having their support for his alternative would be bad enough for Dr Thomas, but not having the support of the Lord Chief Justice must be far worse. For in his recent speech at King's College London (report, March 19), Lord Taylor said:

I am not opposed to all the measures signalled by the Home Secretary. In particular, I believe there is merit in his proposal to bring sentences actually to be served by a prisoner closer to the sentence pronounced by the court.

Certainty and consistency are best served when the public is able easily to understand the true effect of the sentence a court has pronounced. Clearly here also assists in giving sentences their appropriate weight as a deterrent, I believe public confidence in the system is eroded when convicted criminals are seen to walk free from prison after serving rather less than half of their sentences, however good their behaviour may have been in the interim.

Indeed the system has now reached a point where the sentencing exercise in court has the appearance of a charade with everyone engaged in a calculation of how much less than the pronounced sentence will actually be served ... Accordingly I support the principle that we should have what the Home Secretary has called "honesty in sentencing" — that the sentence served should bear a very much closer relation to the sentence imposed.

It might be of some comfort for Dr Thomas to learn that his opinion coincides with that expressed in paragraphs 84-86 of Jack Straw's new policy paper entitled *Honesty, Consistency and Progression in Sentencing*. It will be far more comforting to my constituents to know that on this issue the Home Secretary has the ringing endorsement of the Lord Chief Justice of England.

Yours truly,
IVAN LAWRENCE
(Chairman,
Home Affairs Select Committee),
House of Commons.
March 27.

From Mr Christopher Lee

Sir, This morning I finished writing a new episode of the BBC Radio 4 history of Britain series, *This Sealed Isle*, dealing with an earlier debate on law and order. I have in front of me a few lines from the script. They come from a document entitled, *An Inquiry whether Crime and Misery are produced or prevented by our present system of Prison Discipline*.

Here is an extract concerning new offenders:
He (the prisoner) may be compelled to mingle with the vilest of mankind, and in self-defence to adopt their habits, their language and their sentiments; he may become a villain by actual compulsion ... His trial may be long protracted; he may be imprisoned on suspicion, and pine in jail while his family is starving out of it, without any opportunity of remedying that suspicion ... You give him leisure, and for the employment of that leisure you give him to sit in every branch of infamy.

A familiar argument today, made more interesting by its date, 1818. The document, written by an MP, Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, was so widely read that it had to be reprinted five times in one year.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LEE,
Chapel Farm House,
North Wootton, Somerset.
March 26.

Paedophile restrictions

From Professor Nigel D. Walker

Sir, If the Home Secretary is thinking of restricting paedophiles' access to jobs allowing contacts with children (letter, 7 West Road, Cambridge, March 23), he should have the support of any surviving members of the Advisory Council on the Penal System. We recommended this a quarter of a century ago.

I am, etc.,
NIGEL WALKER,
University of Cambridge
Institute of Criminology,
7 West Road, Cambridge.
March 23.

No Smoking Day

From Dr J. A. D. Ewart

Sir, If a boy robbing his father of the joy of "indulging" in a cigarette is not moral blackmail, what is (letters, 19, 22)?

Yours faithfully,
J. A. D. EWART,
Delgany,
Chorltonwood,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.
March 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

The RSPCA and charitable status

From the Chairman of the RSPCA Council

Sir, The RSPCA's long-running campaign to improve the conditions of primates used in research is not a "casualty" of any ruling by the Charity Commission (report, March 28; see also letter, March 29).

Accepting that we were not allowed, under charity law, to ask for a ban on chimpanzee testing if the experiments are of benefit to mankind and there are no alternatives — and we fully understand this reasoning — we simply changed the campaign's emphasis. This was not detrimental to the message we wanted to put across to the public.

The principle of charity law — enshrined in a National Anti-Vivisection Society case some forty years ago — cuts both ways, since the RSPCA is supported by the Charity Commission in campaigning on issues such as hunting with hounds. We believe that if it is necessary to kill foxes that have become pests, there are alternatives, such as shooting, which cause far less suffering than chasing the animal for miles and then letting a pack of hounds rip it to pieces.

The RSPCA ought to reflect or mirror the interests of animals rather than of human society. If it is not prepared to do so a new organisation is needed — whatever its tax status.

Yours etc,
RONALD F. KIRKBY,
Chairman, RSPCA Council,
Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex.
March 29.

From Mr Peter Talbot Wilcox

Sir, Should not the RSPCA be prepared to forgo its tax exemptions and stand firm against all cruelty to animals?

Yours faithfully,
P. D. R. TALBOT WILCOX,
Thamescroft,
Shamley Green, Surrey.
March 29.

From Miss Mary-Elizabeth Raw

Sir, As a veterinary surgeon, I have saved animals' lives, and as a patient my own life has been saved, by drugs which have been tested on animals. Until such a time as alternative methods for the RSPCA to continue to campaign against cruelty in cases in which cruelty cannot be justified by a greater benefit conferred on mankind?

The RSPCA's ruling council of trustees is democratically elected, which means their spread of views on animal welfare is wide and diverse.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. RAW,
40 Milton Green,
Weston-super-Mare, Avon.
March 28.

A day to remember and give thanks

From Mr Humphrey Dell

Sir, I am very much attracted by Mrs Coleridge's suggestion (letter, March 26; see also letter, March 20) that the emphasis of Remembrance Day should be moved to a theme of thanksgiving for those things we would not be enjoying today but for the duty well done by servicemen and the sacrifices which they made in the wars of this century.

This combination of sentiments was brought home to me most vividly when I had the great privilege of attending the Homecoming at the West Point Military Academy in the USA in 1979, an event which by tradition coincides with the Thanksgiving weekend.

There on the Saturday the veteran students, drawn up on parade class by class, are saluted as a mark of respect by a march past of current cadets, while on the Sunday those who gave their lives are remembered by a service in the chapel.

But across the nation the weekend is devoted to giving thanks for the blessings of today made possible by the hardships and sacrifices of the past.

Against this background I support Mrs Coleridge's suggestion of a public holiday of thankfulness on the Friday of the last weekend of October, including one would hope, a two-minute silence.

He (the prisoner) may be compelled to mingle with the vilest of mankind, and in self-defence to adopt their habits, their language and their sentiments; he may become a villain by actual compulsion ... His trial may be long protracted; he may be imprisoned on suspicion, and pine in jail while his family is starving out of it, without any opportunity of remedying that suspicion ... You give him leisure, and for the employment of that leisure you give him to sit in every branch of infamy.

However, the problem with guidelines has always been that of enforcement, not intention. They are not binding and in my experience are held in low esteem, if not contempt, by many producers, whatever they may say in public.

I recently took part in a studio discussion for the television programme *Biteback*. When it was pointed out that the guidelines had been seriously breached in a particular case, the senior BBC head of department responded dismissively with a smile and flick of the hand as "very rarefied", while another programme-making panelist whose name is never off our screens at the moment declared he had never heard of them, let alone read them.

Surely the solution is to require

BBC guidelines

From Mr Ian Curteis

Sir, Most viewers and listeners will loudly applaud Mr Marmaduke Hussey's parting shot at the BBC: the tightening of the corporation's producers' guidelines over matters of taste, decency, fairness and balance (report, March 25).

That would bring home to him the uniqueness of his responsibility in accepting £1.6 billion of consumers' money with strings attached — the strings of required standards. That money is the people's money, not the programme-makers'.

It would be parallel to certain civil servants having to countersign the wording of the Official Secrets Act because of their exceptional responsibilities. BBC programme-makers, who influence the flavour and chemistry of our national life probably more than any other single body of people, carry a responsibility no less crucial.

Yours truly,
IAN CURTEIS,
The Mill House,
Cain St Aldwyns,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
March 26.

The hidden earl

From the Chairman of English Heritage

Sir, Your Diary (March 25) and the letter from Catherine Hesketh (March 26) complain that the bust and portrait of Lord Iveagh have been effectively removed from public view at Kenwood. In fact the bust, although not on view on Sunday when the house reopened, can generally be seen in one of the fine Adam rooms on the first floor.

Unfortunately, Lord Iveagh's portrait was removed from the entrance hall by mistake. Since your reports appeared it has been replaced where it belongs.

Yours



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 30: The Prince Edward today visited Cumbria and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant [Mr James Cropper].

His Royal Highness, Director, Outward Bound Trust, this morning visited Outward Bound Ulswater.

The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this afternoon attended "Survival", the Special Projects Challenge for 1996, at Greystoke Castle, near Penrith.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE March 30: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this afternoon attended the Final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, West Midlands, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands [Mr Robert Taylor].

Birthdays today

BIRTHS: William Harvey, physician, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, Folkestone, 1578; Abbe Prevost, novelist, Hesdin, France, 1697; Salomon Gessner, painter and poet, Zurich, 1730; William Mulready, painter, Ennis, Co Clare, 1786; Prince Otto von Bismarck, Chancellor of Germany, 1815-90; Schonhausen, 1815; Sir Truby King, pioneer of mothercraft, New Plymouth, New Zealand, 1858; Ferruccio Busoni, pianist and composer, Empoli, Italy, 1866; Edmond Rostand, dramatist, Marseilles, 1868; Lon Chaney, actor, Colorado Springs, California, 1883; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, Sydney, New South Wales, 1893.

DEATHS: John Langhorne, poet, Blaydon, Somerset, 1779; Ferenc Molnár, dramatist, New York, 1952; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter, Paris, 1976; Marvin Gaye, singer, shot by his father, Los Angeles, 1984. The Territorial Army, a force of volunteer soldiers mainly for home defence, was formed in Britain, 1908.

The RAF was formed, absorbing the Royal Flying Corps, 1918.

American forces invaded Okinawa, 1945. The US launched its first weather satellite, 1960.

Honorary President, the Royal Geographical Society, this morning arrived at Gatwick Airport from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 31: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this afternoon attended the Final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, West Midlands, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands [Mr Robert Taylor].

Anniversaries

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Nature notes



The hoopoe visitor from north Africa

flowers like fluffy buttons on those elm trees that survived Dutch elm disease.

On the sallow bushes, the male catkins are turning gold as the pollen develops. Large flowers are open on the roadside dandelions; their long roots can lap water deep in the earth. Marsh marigolds, or kingcups, are unfolding their first shiny yellow flowers on the muddy edges of lakes.

DJM

SOME redwings are heading back to Iceland and Scandinavia, but there are still many flocks of these small thrushes in hedges and field-side trees. They keep up a long, babbling song, but will fly away when disturbed, revealing the red feathers under their wings.

Waxwings from the great winter invasion are also still to be found feeding on berry-bearing shrubs in many parts of the country: they are tamer than the redwings, and allow close views.

The cold winds are keeping back the common summer visitors such as willow warblers and yellow wagtails, but the first wandering hoopoes and returning ospreys have been recorded.

The winds are also holding back the new leaves on the trees, but the green sycamore buds and the cross-hatched hornbeam buds are poised to open. There are dark pink

flowers like fluffy buttons on those elm trees that survived Dutch elm disease.

On the sallow bushes, the male catkins are turning gold as the pollen develops. Large flowers are open on the roadside dandelions; their long roots can lap water deep in the earth. Marsh marigolds, or kingcups, are unfolding their first shiny yellow flowers on the muddy edges of lakes.

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Service dinners

71st Yeomanry Signal Regiment The Earl of Limerick, Honorary Colonel, and the Officers of the 71st Yeomanry Signal Regiment dined out the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S.P. Foakes, on Saturday at Longmoor. Major W.S. Sampson presided.

Mahar Regiment Former officers of the Mahar Regiment and their ladies held their annual reunion dinner on Saturday at the Mill House Hotel, Ashington, West Sussex. Major E. Stanley-Jones presided. Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Middleton also spoke.

No 1 Air Control Centre

Officers of No 1 Air Control Centre marked the unit's first year of reformed service with a dinner held on Saturday at RAF Boulmer. Wing Commander E.A. Harris presided.

Duologue

Byron Society

Mr John Barton, Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, held a duologue with the Byrn Society on Friday night at the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Dr Peter Cochran of Cambridge University presided. Mrs Louise Nelson, Mr John Carlisle, Mr Michael Foot, Lord Gilmour of Craigmillar and Lady (Michele) Renouf also spoke.

Framework Knitters' Company

The following have been installed as officers of the Framework Knitters' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Thomas Munro Fraser; Upper Warden, Mr Robert Brian Osborne; Under Warden, Mr David John Goodenay.

Furniture Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Furniture Makers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr H. P. Josseyne; Senior Warden, Mr C. E. F. Brett; Junior Warden, Mr C. T. A. Hammond.

Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York

The following have been elected officers of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York for the ensuing year:

Governor, Mr Christopher Hall; Deputy Governor, Mr Colin Shepherd; Senior Warden, Mr Ashley Burgess; Junior Warden, Mr Linday Mackinlay.

Cancer Research Campaign

The Cancer Research Campaign has appointed Professor Gordon McVie as its new Director General. He takes over today from Dr David A. Peyer, who retires after 12 years with the leading charity. Dr Trevor Hince becomes Scientific Director.

Church news

Latest appointments include Canon Dr Peter Crick, Priest-in-Charge, Coniscliffe and Bishop's Adviser on Continuing Ministry, Durham, to also act as director of post-ordination training, same diocese. He succeeds Canon Dr Alan Smith.

The Rev John Day, Team Vicar, Langley Parish Team Ministry (Oxford), to be Chaplain to St Edmund, Coventry, Woking and Warden of St Columba's, Woking (Guildford).

The Rev Janice Fox, Curate, Tupholme and Hapton, Bishop's Stortford, to be an ecumenical officer and Priest-in-Charge, St George, Orleton, and Brinsford (Hereford).

Canon Philip G. Parker, Priest-in-Charge, Furzton, Northamptonshire, to Priory-in-Charge, Furzton, with Molesworth, Old Weston and Leighton Bromswold (Ely).

The Rev Peter Garland is now warden of Farborough College (Guildford).

The Rev George Harris is to be Priest-in-Charge, Lyons, Easington Lane (Durham).

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OBITUARIES

Hugh Falkus, angler, author and film-maker, died on March 30 aged 78. He was born on May 1917.

ONE of the great figures of 20th-century angling, Hugh Falkus was also a naturalist and film-maker of international repute. He was, moreover, a restless and iconoclastic figure who had the stature and looks of a *Boys' Own Paper* hero, and he lived a life to match.

Hugh Edward Lance Falkus, son of James Everest Falkus and Alice Musgrave, was born into a modestly comfortable family during a zeppelin raid over Surrey. He lived the life of a free spirit in boyhood, mostly in the Devon and Essex outdoors with a rod or a gun in his hand. He caught his first fish when he was four, learnt to shoot when he was six and had become an expert helmsman before reaching 15.

By 18 he had learnt to fly, by 19 he had entered the first of four marriages and by 20 he was in the Royal Air Force. Headstrong and brilliant, he had many brushes with death, not least because as a pilot he had the habit of performing aerobatics in everything he could climb into — including bombers, which he both barrel-rolled and looped.

His most amazing escape came in more serious circumstances. In 1941, by now a Spitfire pilot, he was scrambled to intercept enemy bombers. Falkus shot down two and was so intent on finishing off a third he had already hit that he ran out of fuel over France. He fell into German hands wearing only pyjamas under his flying suit. The SS interrogated him, concluded because of his unconventional dress that he was a spy, beat him up and decided to execute him.

Falkus was stood against a wall and a firing squad, rifles at the ready. A trout began to rise in a stream alongside and Falkus decided, in what he expected to be his last moments, to concentrate all his attention on that. Before the order to fire could be given a car swept up, a Wehrmacht major-general got out, barked a few questions and then bundled Falkus into the rear seat and drove away. It turned out that he had been educated in England. That



night Falkus drank champagne through broken teeth before military formality reassured itself and he was taken to a prison camp.

Four years followed in camps in France, Poland and Germany. Falkus made numerous attempts to escape. He worked on 13 tunnels, including the famous Wooden Horse tunnel, finally breaking out and getting back to England ten days before the war ended. Soon afterwards his marriage broke up.

The years as a POW had left a deep mark. Falkus resolved that "no one else is going to give me another order; no one is going to shout at me again". He freelanced for the rest of his life. For three years he worked as an actor and director in repertory, using skills he had developed on entertainment committees in the prison camps. Then he found work principally with the BBC.

By 1949 he was presenting live television from Alexandra Palace, writing and narrating for radio — and fishing, sailing, shooting and flying whenever he could. It was about this time that he had another

narrow escape. A novice pilot froze at the controls beside him and flew their RAF Reserve trainer into the ground. The aircraft was destroyed, but Falkus and the novice walked away unscathed.

In 1950 he began to make documentary films for cinema and television. *Drake's England* appeared within a year and *Shark Island* followed in 1952. It was during the making of the latter that tragedy struck and Falkus cheated death yet again. Far from land off Ireland's west coast, the small boat he was using was hit by a squall and went down. His new wife of six months and three crewmen were lost. Falkus swam for eight hours to the shores of Achill Island before being found by fishermen. He was the only survivor.

Falkus continued with films, married Lady Margaret Vane-Tempest-Stewart, daughter of the 7th Marquess of Londonderry, and for some time, while still working, lived the high life. He was later to recall catching 23 salmon before breakfast (one imagines breakfast was late, that day) and shooting 93 pheasants

with 100 cartridges in a single stand. He also sailed a great deal and raced against Morgan Giles, Peter Scott and Uffa Fox.

In 1958 his third marriage ended and he married Kathleen Armstrong, his wife of 38 years. With Kathleen, a warm and down-to-earth Cumbrian farmer's daughter, he found himself in a settled home overlooking the River Esk in the Borders and his life took on a greater stability. He made several films for the BBC's natural history unit and narrated many programmes made by others, including all 40 episodes of *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*.

In the 1960s he formed a long and successful working relationship with Professor Niko Tinbergen, the Nobel Prize-winning specialist on animal behaviour. They made a string of ground-breaking wildlife films together. *Signals for Survival* (1969) won the Italia Prize and the American Blue Ribbon. *The Gull Watchers*, *The Sign Readers*, *The Beachcombers*, *The Riddle of the Rook* (Venice Film Festival, 1972) and *The Tender Trap*, an astonishing study of carnivorous plants, all found wide international audiences. Two highly personal films, *Salmo*, *the Leaper* and the semi-autobiographical *Self-Portrait of a Happy Man* were even more successful. In 1982 the Royal Geographical Society awarded Falkus the Cherry Kearton Medal for his wildlife work.

There also were books. Falkus wrote a number, including *Signals for Survival* (again with Tinbergen); *Nature Detective*, a study of animal tracks and signs; and *The Stolen Years*, a vivid account of his early life. But it will be for his contribution to angling and angling literature, above all else, that Falkus is likely to be remembered.

With *Sea Trout Fishing*, first published in 1962 and greatly enlarged in 1975, Falkus erected one of the milestones on a path of literature that reaches back to Dame Juliana Berners and *A Treatise of Fysshinge with an Angle*, published in 1496. Indeed, Dame Juliana was Falkus's only angling hero and he was collaborating on a book about her at the time of his death.

Falkus became fascinated by the

sea trout, a migratory fish which, like the salmon, spends part of its life in rivers and part in the sea. Little was known about the fish at that time and mature sea trout were regarded as being virtually uncatchable. As a naturalist as well as an angler, Falkus had the background to begin from first principles. He studied the fish in the sea and in the river. He observed that in the sea the fish appeared to feed mostly at night, and set about developing ways in which its feeding responses could consistently be triggered once the fish had returned to fresh water, even though, for physiological reasons, it had stopped eating.

In *Sea Trout Fishing* Falkus proposed an entirely original, coherent and above all effective set of strategies based largely on night-time fishing with new kinds of lures fished in new kinds of ways. The book virtually invented a new kind of sport.

Fresh Water Fishing, a work of great scholarship written with his long-time angling collaborator Fred Buller, appeared in 1975. *Successful Angling*, with Buller, Walker, and Taylor, came in 1977. Then, among others, there appeared the monumental *Salmon Fishing* (1984) and *Spey Casting* (1994). Together they lifted Falkus to a position of pre-eminence in the huge and literate world of game angling.

By the time of his death, Falkus had the stature and reputation of an Old Testament prophet. He used his position from time to time to rail against commercialism in angling, against competitive fishing, which he regarded as demeaning for both man and fish, and against the growing tendency to release fish once caught because, he argued, to treat them so was to reduce them to the status of playthings. In his later years, he only ever shot or fished for what he or his friends could eat.

After his escape from prison camp, Falkus regarded time as the most precious of all life's commodities. He left unfinished an autobiography which was to be called *Some Of It Was Fun*.

Hugh Falkus is survived by his wife Kathleen, and by a son from a previous marriage.

PROFESSOR SIR CHARLES OATLEY



Sir Charles Oatley, OBE, FRS, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Cambridge University, 1960-71, died on March 11 aged 92. He was born on February 2, 1904.

CHARLES OATLEY was the pioneer who helped to reveal the vast potential of the scanning electron microscope. This

bomb in the US, Oatley took over the entire technical direction. His interest in accurate measurement and instrumentation proved enormously important in the development of anti-aircraft radar. For his work at the RRDE he was appointed OBE in 1956.

In 1945 Oatley was invited by Trinity College, Cambridge, to take up one of the fellowships they had founded to strengthen the teaching of engineering. He was appointed to a lectureship in Electrical Engineering at the same time that E. B. Moullin was appointed chair in that subject. In 1954 Oatley was made Reader and in 1960, on the retirement of Moullin, he was elected to the professorship.

There was a complete difference in temperament between the two men. Moullin was

essentially interested in his own research and was out of touch with problems of industrial interest. Oatley realised that university research should deal with real problems while complementing and not competing with industrial and government work.

Though encountering a good deal of resistance from many of his colleagues, he introduced an electrical option to meet the needs of students interested in electronics and electrical engineering into the Engineering Tripos.

Oatley's interest in the scanning electron microscope was aroused by the work of von Ardenne in Germany and Zworykin in the US, although

they built produced poor resolution and contrast and their results discouraged further research.

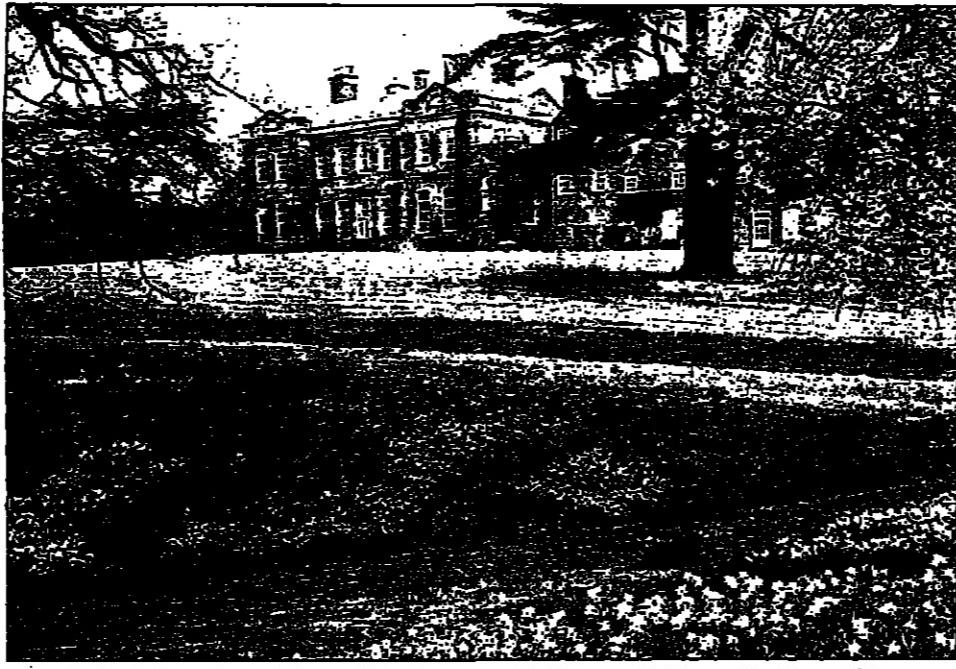
Oatley, working with his early research students, D. McMullan, K. C. A. Smith, T. E. Everhart and R. F. M. Thornley, reversed the situation and revealed the vast potential of the microscope.

He retired from the Chair of Electrical Engineering in 1971, two years after he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was knighted in 1974. In 1976 he became one of the founder fellows of what was to become the Royal Academy of Engineering and he was elected a foreign associate of the US National Academy of Engineering in 1979.

He was much loved by those with whom he worked and his 80th and 90th birthdays were celebrated with seminars organised by his research students who travelled from all over the world to present papers on their latest work. Oatley himself talked at these meetings, sustaining the clarity of expression and thought that had characterised his life's work.

He is survived by his wife Enid, whom he married in 1930, and by their two sons.

LADY LABOUCHERE



Lady Labouchere, left, and Dudmaston Hall, near Bridgnorth, Shropshire

for the community of which Dudmaston was such an integral part.

Before she took it over the house was somewhat barren of contents: 19th-century sales of furniture and objects having rather cleaned it out. But Lady Labouchere brought to it her own collections gleaned from her Darby ancestors, including some 17th-century Dutch flower paintings; and from the Christy Millers of Acton, Chinese porcelain and French furniture, she being the sole surviving descendant of both these families. For his part, Sir George contributed his modern art collection, mainly Paris School paintings and modern Spanish pictures.

The house was redecorated with great style in ambassadorial white, curtains made by Nina Campbell, then working for John Fowler. When eventually in 1978 the National Trust was given the estate, Rachel Labouchere was the one who guided the decisions on how

the house should be arranged for visitors — with whom she was always keen to share her interests. Many of the items seen at Dudmaston reflect those interests: Topographical watercolours, botanical art, a museum explaining her family connections — including Charles Babbage the father of the computer who married a Whitmore ancestor. Finally she had been putting together displays of her court dresses and other clothes bought from well-known designers of the 1950s and 1960s, worn on the diplomatic circuit.

Lady Labouchere was a passionate gardener and had an abiding love of flowers. With her inheritance of flower paintings, she was a talented botanical artist, having trained with John Nash and Mary Griserson. In 1995 she was elected president of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, the oldest surviving such society in the country.

At the same time as making all her improvements to Dudmaston, Lady Labouchere was helping to inspire the foundation of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, of which she was president for 10 years. She was responsible for the acquisition of Dale House, one of the Darby houses situated in Coalbrookdale which she acquired for the Ironbridge Gorge Trust to set

up as a Quaker centre for education. She raided the attics at Dudmaston for suitable furniture for it and the other Darby house, Rose Hill next door. She also endowed a fund for staffing by volunteers.

Lady Labouchere wrote two books on the Quakers from family diaries which emphasised the significance of the Society of Friends to the origins of the Industrial Revolution (the Darbys were Quakers in the 18th and 19th centuries).

A political diary of Adelaide Whitmore is currently at the press and, at the time of Lady Labouchere's death, she was researching a book on Georgiana and Charles Babbage, a study of Elizabeth Tennyson (Alfred Lord Tennyson's favourite aunt who married another ancestor) and also researching the history of the Hamilton-Russell family.

For her work on family history, she was awarded an honorary LLD by Birmingham University in 1993. Her interest in historical research started when she worked in the archives in Madrid. The final result of this was that she gave an endowment in 1994 in honour of Sir Charles Babbage to Oxford University for the purpose of advancing Spanish studies. This provides an opportunity in all fields of science and medicine. They are even used, following pioneering work in Oatley's group, for writing the patterns for microchips. Oatley's book, *The Scanning Electron Microscope* was published in 1972.

Charles William Oatley was born in Frome, Somerset, and educated at Bedford Modern School and St John's College, Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences. Here he was the contemporary of many other eminent scientists and mathematicians including Sir John Cockcroft, Sir Ernest Rutherford, Sir William Hodge and Louis Leakey.

For a short time after graduation he worked in industry, concerning himself with problems of radio valve manufacture. But in 1927 he joined the staff of the physics department of King's College, London, under E. V. Appleton, and remained there until 1939. In this period he published several papers on the problems of magnetrons and vacuum physics and wrote a useful little book, *Wireless Receivers*, which was read widely by enthusiasts.

Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, Oatley was invited to join the team tackling the problems of army radar at the Radar Research and Development Establishment (RRDE). He worked first as officer in charge of basic research and then as deputy head under Cockcroft. When Cockcroft left the establishment to pursue the development of the atom

any place (except possibly Hyères) on this coast, Cannes remains chiefly English in winter population and in character — select, proud, spacious, and far more easy-going than smart. Her sea-front is still sandy (and muddy when it rains), not paved and esplanaded; and here stands the flower-market, and here sit the natives mending long fishing-nets of an extraordinary fineness.

A Casino where you play at *boule* (a debased roulette) for francs; a theatre where the warts are prolonged that the audience may go and play at *boule*; the pier and the promenade, the promenading crowds who look always at each other and never at the sea, the bustle, the night-long roar of the traffic, the aviation, the trotting-matches, the races, the balls, the hard work of pleasure — all this, you would say, could only be enjoyed by the quite young and active, if your eyes did not give you evidence that the very, very old, and even the very ill,

found what they needed there. A few miles westward shady, flowery Cannes remembers that she owed her start in life to an Englishman.

Brougham, seeking distraction after the death of his daughter, found himself debarred from Italy by cholera, and, being quarantined in the port of Cannes, decided to stay where he was. Here he built a villa which he named after his daughter, Eleanore-Louise, and here he died.

He is survived by his wife Enid, whom he married in 1930, and by their two sons.

Appointments in the Forces

ROYAL NAVY AND ROYAL MARINES

CAPTAIN P. M. Chisholm, to

Supplies, 10.6.96; A. S. L.

Smith, 8.5.96.

MAJOR C. J. G. Brown,

to CO, 10.6.96; M. C. O'Brien,

25.10.95; M. J. D. Hill, to Staff

Officer, 25.10.95; M. J. D. Hill,

to CO, 25.10.95; M. J. D. Hill

NEWS

Fears grow that Clarke may quit

■ John Major is preparing for a showdown this week with Kenneth Clarke over plans for a referendum on a single currency.

The meeting will come amid deepening anxiety in senior Tory circles that the Chancellor might resign if his strongly held objections are overruled. Either today or tomorrow, Mr Major will offer Mr Clarke a deal intended to swing him behind the firm view in Downing Street and Conservative Central Office that a referendum pledge is essential.Page 1

Plan to end water monopolies

■ Plans to cut bills and improve services to water consumers will be announced by the Government. They are designed to smash the monopoly enjoyed by the ten giant regional water companies and end pay, perks and profits excesses.....Page 1

Rail economy drive

Railtrack employees are to be told that using the train is putting a strain on its finances and that in future they should travel by road when on business.Page 1

Warmed salmon

A decline in numbers of spring salmon in British rivers has been linked to global warming. Page 7

Alarming case

A man who lost antiques worth £200,000 in a burglary has reached an out-of-court settlement with the company that sold him his burglar alarm. Michael Clarke-Jervoise had filed a High Court writ against Chubb Alarms.....Page 7

Electron test

Nominations close for local elections on May 2, when John Major will discover whether he has succeeded in rallying support to stay in Downing Street.Page 8

Chinese stop speech

Chinese security police raided a banquet and stopped Amy Tan, the American writer, from making a speech to raise funds for Chinese orphans.....Page 9

Bedroom hacker

American authorities are seeking the extradition of a 21-year-old Argentine computer hacker who managed to penetrate top secret US defence files from his Buenos Aires bedroom.Page 10

Chechen ceasefire

President Yeltsin moved to try to clear up the biggest political headache of his re-election campaign when he announced a ceasefire and partial troop withdrawal from Chechnya.Page 11

Jesus was a Freemason, says book

■ Jesus was a Freemason and grandmaster of an ultra-conservative Jewish sect, according to a new book. *The Hiram Key* claims the passion narratives of the New Testament date from resurrection rituals of ancient Egypt and are enshrined in some of Freemasonry's secret initiation ceremonies. The book was dismissed by the Roman Catholic ChurchPage 2



Members of the Gloucestershire Integrated Youth Dance Company at last night's British Telecom Dance 96 event at the Royal Festival Hall, London. Five hundred young dance groups entered the nationwide competition, held before an invited audience

BUSINESS

More jobs: Unemployment in the UK will continue to fall and job prospects will improve, according to ministers. Gillian Shephard, the Employment and Education Secretary, is expected to paint a rosy picture when she speaks at the Group of Seven nations' new jobs summit in France.....Page 40

Merge talks: Financial advisers to British Telecom and Cable & Wireless are locked in negotiations over the proposed £35 billion merger that will create one of the world's largest telecom groups.....Page 40

Takeover fight: BET, the business services group, has forecast a 20 per cent increase in next year's dividend in an attempt to ward off the £1.9 billion hostile takeover bid from Rentokil.....Page 40

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ARTS

New art: First they gave us Rachel Whiteread and her Turner Prize-winning *House*. Now Artangel, the duo behind some of the most controversial visual art of the past few years, have another project up their sleeves.....Page 12

Earning her tears: If anyone is entitled to make a claim to the works of Brecht and Weill it is Marianne Faithfull, as she proved in her gig at the Jazz Cafe. Page 12

New play: A lot of imagination has gone into Neil Bartlett and Nicolas Bloomfield's refreshingly original theatrical adaptation of David Garnett's short story, *Lady into Fox*.Page 13

Theatrical success: A West End run for Sue Glover's fine and moving play, *Bondagers*.....Page 13

Hip parents: Members of the Sixties generation are behaving like teenagers to the embarrassment of their children, writes Joe Joseph.....Page 15

Giles Coren: Men, according to ground-breaking new research, think they are better at shopping than women. No surprises there. Men are better at everything.....Page 15

MIND AND MATTER

Starting today: The exclusive serialisation of Richard Dawkins's new book, *Climbing Mount Improbable*.....Page 14

Sticky subject: Man invented glue nearly 40,000 years ago, according to a team of French scientists. Nigel Hawkes reports.....Page 14

FEATURES

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SPORT

FA Cup: Manchester United meet Liverpool in the final after defeating Chelsea 2-1 in the first of the semi-finals. In the other, Liverpool beat Aston Villa 3-0, with Robbie Fowler scoring twice.....Page 21

Football: As the battle in the relegation zone of the FA Carling Premiership intensified, Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City forced a 1-1 draw.....Pages 21, 24

Racing: Rough Quest returned home to his Dorking stables to receive a hero's welcome after winning the Martell Grand National at Aintree.....Page 29

Rugby League: While Wigan showed their strength in the new Super League, Leeds launched their campaign by losing 22-18 to Warrington.....Page 28

Golf: Jarmo Sandelin, of Sweden, captured the Madeira Island Open, finishing one stroke ahead of Paul Aaffleck, of Wales.....Page 22

Rugby union: A cloud hung over Leicester after the dismissal of Tony Russ, the director of rugby, but the team maintained their challenge in the Courage League, and lie two points behind the leaders.....Page 30

Motor racing: Damon Hill won his second successive Formula One race of the season in the Brazilian Grand Prix.....Page 23

LOTTERY NUMBERS

12, 26, 27, 28, 37, 49. Bonus: 43. There was no outright winner.

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

A Dispatches programme suggests that some doctors at Bristol Royal Infirmary put professional solidarity ahead of the safety of their patients. If this could happen in Bristol, it could certainly happen elsewhere.....Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

Someone has to force the party leaders to spell out the implications of their chosen strategies. As Sir Richard Scott, let alone Presley Baxendale, would presumably not be acceptable to the Tories, how about that arbiter of public standards, Lord Nolan?.....Page 16

Hugh Falkus, angler, author and film-maker; Professor Sir Charles Oatley, electrical engineer; Lady Labouchere, last châtelaine of Dudmaston Hall.....Page 19

RSPCA and charitable status; sentencing policy.....Page 17

The once feared Russian Army is a gutted, demoralised force that has been unable to subdue even the irregulars of Chechnya. *The New York Times*

THE TIMES**IN THE TIMES**

■ NEW LIGHT
Gustave Caillebotte: the forgotten name in the roll call of famous Impressionists

■ LAW
What is the Government doing for the families of CJD victims?

FORECAST

■ General: eastern England will be cloudy with showers, some of which may be wintry. During the day these showers will become more widespread across central and northern areas. Towards evening it should be drier with cloud breaking. Southwest England and Wales should be dry with bright or sunny spells.

Northern Scotland will start the day cloudy with showers and these showers will spread southwards to affect Northern Ireland and southern Scotland by afternoon.

■ London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, Central N England, NE England: mostly rather cloudy with showers, some wintry. Becoming drier later. Wind light to moderate northeasterly. Max 8C to 48F to 46F.

■ Central S England, W Midlands: mostly dry and bright at first but showers developing for a time. Wind light to moderate northeasterly. Max 8C (46F) to 45F.

■ Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: there will be isolated showers at first in east, but mostly dry with frost overnight.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5pm: b=bright; c=cloudy; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; f=fog; g=gale; h=hail;

t=tint; ts=thunder; s=sleet; sn=snow; su=sun; tg=tog; g=gale; h=heavy rain;

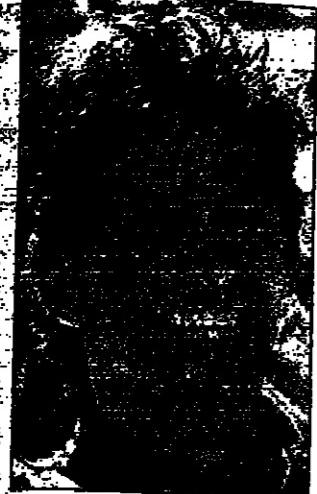
5pm to 8pm: Sun Rain Max

MOTOR RACING

SCHOOLS SPORT

RUGBY LEAGUE

RACING



23

Hill gives no ground in his drive for the top



27

Forward planning reaps dividends at Repton



28

Bears prove a soft touch for Wigan



29

National theatre provides grand finale

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 1 1996



Beckham stoops to conquer, driving home Manchester United's winner at Villa Park yesterday with Phelan, struggling with a thigh injury, watching helplessly in his wake. Photograph: Darren Walsh

Gullit bows to Cantona in classic semi-final at Villa Park

United head for Wembley

Chelsea
Manchester United

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE FA CUP FINAL at Wembley on May 11 is sure to be some kind of a climax to this season — any game between Manchester United and Liverpool is always that — but this time the two giants of Lancashire are both in the frame for a League and Cup double.

Yet it is hard to imagine any contest being more pulsating, living closer to the edge of nerve or emotional spirit, than the semi-final at Villa Park yesterday, an almost frightening 90 minutes in which United came from behind to defeat brave Chelsea. It cast aside the caution and mean-spiritedness that has cowed semi-finals down the years and, blessed by wonderful performances from the imported talents of Ruud Gullit and Eric Cantona, raised the tactical and technical merit of the old English game on a pitch that resembled seaside mud-flats. It was awe-inspiring.

The scoreline tells you there were three goals. In addition, the wood-work was rattled three times and both sides made dramatic goal-line clearances — one of them, for heaven's sake, by Cantona. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, admitted he has never seen his Frenchman so far back in free play. He also admitted he has not witnessed such a stirring semi-final.

His adversary, Glenn Hoddle, rightly pointed out that Chelsea suffered a cruel twist of fate. Indeed, there were more than mere twists; there was the tearing of flesh that took both backs, Clarke and Phelan, from Chelsea, rendering the London side completely broken-

winged at a crucial stage of the second half. Phelan pulled a muscle, running upfield with no one within yards, yet persuaded his manager and physio to give him ten minutes more. They turned out to be crucial minutes, because United were a goal down when Phelan fell and a goal up by the time he finally conceded to the pain and the handicap of a damaged left thigh.

Was it unwise for him to be allowed to continue? "You have to go by what the player tells you," Hoddle said. "We had already lost one full back, Clarke, with a very nasty ligament strain, and when Phelan did come off, I had to use Gavin Peacock at left back, a role he had never played in his life."

Belying the desert conditions, the capricious bounce on a grassless pitch, United, depleted by the loss of Bruce, a late withdrawal with a thigh injury, as well as Pallister and Irwin, felt they had no option but to attack. In the fourth minute, Sharpe and Giggs combined and Beckham struck the right-hand post with



Flying Fowler 24
Batting Bolton 25

Hitchcock unmoved, except for the shock in his expression.

Then, gradually, Gullit took charge. He did not dictate from midfield — he was far more ubiquitous, now running alongside Hughes at centre forward, now surging down the right flank, now operating almost at inside left — and, from his inspiration, first Clarke lobbed Schmeichel, but narrowly over the top, then Duberry made United's crossbar quiver with a shot that bounced to safety.

Thus, after 35 minutes, when Chelsea took the lead, it was earned.

The goal owed much to the bustling perseverance of Hughes, who broke down the left before, with cool foresight, picking out Gullit standing, remarkably, all alone six yards from goal; Gullit's header seemed so very easy.

Yet Gullit was not to pace himself with his 33 years, to lasting effect and when he tired, so did Chelsea. Then Cantona began to spread influence.

Just before half-time, with a sumptuous volley from 27 yards, he comprehensively beat Hitchcock, but again the ball thumped against wood, bouncing clear of the base of the post. Shortly after half-time, Phelan's thigh muscle twanged and, within five minutes, United levelled. Philip Neville, just 19, showed wonderful composure and great reading of the game by attacking behind Phelan. He slipped the ball through the legs of Spencer, swept it towards the far post and, after Cantona won it in the air, there was Andy Cole stretching to score, at last, a poacher's goal. That was the 55th minute; by 59 minutes, it was 2-1. Burley, having had a most

industrious and worthy afternoon as the midfield anchor for Chelsea, tried a hutch-kick back to his goalkeeper, but mis-hit it woefully. Beckham, again part of Manchester's youth, again composed under pressure, took one touch to control the ball and one to guide it elegantly beyond the already diving Hitchcock.

After that came what Ferguson decreed to be the turning point of the whole match. Schmeichel, having been saved by Cantona's headed clearance from a volley from Spencer, faced the odds almost alone when Gullit, Spencer and Wise combined down the left. Wise, 12 yards out, apparently had the goal at his mercy and he did nothing wrong. He shot quite strongly, but Schmeichel spread that enormous Danish frame in front of him, deflecting the ball, as he often does, with his legs. "World class, definitely world class," Ferguson enthused.

The United manager felt that the sound temperament of his team won the day and, yes, there were those in the crowd becoming overheated, screaming for sendings off. Keane could indeed have gone for slapping the face of Wise, but defending him, Ferguson stated: "Roy [Keane] is unfortunate, he gets booked for his first foul. Sparkie [Hughes] had his usual 20." It was also hard to disagree with Ferguson's final assessment that "Dennis Wise would start a row in an empty house", a reference to the little Chelsea captain's apparent determination after half-time to be the provocateur — but such things should leave no lasting impression. Instead, remember the contest, the goals and the high skill.

CHELSEA (3-2-1): K. Hitchcock — M. Duberry, D. Lee (sub: P. Funkin, 86min), A. Myers — S. Clark (sub: J. Keane, 69), C. Bailey, D. Wise, T. Prestwich (sub: G. Peacock, 64) — A. Spencer, R. Gullit — M. Hughes.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Schmeichel — P. Neville, G. Neville, D. May, L. Sharp — D. Beckham, R. Keane, N. Butt, R. Giggs — E. Cantona — A. Cole, Referee: S. Lodge

THE WAY TO WEMBLEY

SEMI-FINAL		SEMI-FINAL	
v	Chelsea (Ville Park)	v	Aston Villa (Old Trafford)
SIXTH ROUND		SIXTH ROUND	
v	Southampton (O2)	v	Liverpool (O2)
FIFTH ROUND		FIFTH ROUND	
v	Everton (O2)	v	Charlton (O2)
FOURTH ROUND		FOURTH ROUND	
v	Brentford (O2)	v	Shrewsbury (O2)
THIRD ROUND		THIRD ROUND	
v	Sheffield Wednesday (O2)	v	Rockdale (O2)
SECOND ROUND		SECOND ROUND	
v	Walsall (O2)	v	Collymore (O2)
ROUND OF 32		ROUND OF 32	
v	Nottingham Forest (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
FIFTH ROUND		FIFTH ROUND	
v	West Ham (O2)	v	Derby (O2)
FOURTH ROUND		FOURTH ROUND	
v	Blackburn (O2)	v	Shrewsbury (O2)
THIRD ROUND		THIRD ROUND	
v	Sheffield Wednesday (O2)	v	Collymore (O2)
SECOND ROUND		SECOND ROUND	
v	Walsall (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
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v	Blackburn (O2)	v	Shrewsbury (O2)
THIRD ROUND		THIRD ROUND	
v	Sheffield Wednesday (O2)	v	Collymore (O2)
SECOND ROUND		SECOND ROUND	
v	Walsall (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
ROUND OF 32		ROUND OF 32	
v	Nottingham Forest (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
FIFTH ROUND		FIFTH ROUND	
v	West Ham (O2)	v	Derby (O2)
FOURTH ROUND		FOURTH ROUND	
v	Blackburn (O2)	v	Shrewsbury (O2)
THIRD ROUND		THIRD ROUND	
v	Sheffield Wednesday (O2)	v	Collymore (O2)
SECOND ROUND		SECOND ROUND	
v	Walsall (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
ROUND OF 32		ROUND OF 32	
v	Nottingham Forest (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
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v	West Ham (O2)	v	Derby (O2)
FOURTH ROUND		FOURTH ROUND	
v	Blackburn (O2)	v	Shrewsbury (O2)
THIRD ROUND		THIRD ROUND	
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v	Nottingham Forest (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
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v	Blackburn (O2)	v	Shrewsbury (O2)
THIRD ROUND		THIRD ROUND	
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FIFTH ROUND		FIFTH ROUND	
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v	Blackburn (O2)	v	Shrewsbury (O2)
THIRD ROUND		THIRD ROUND	
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v	Walsall (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
ROUND OF 32		ROUND OF 32	
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FIFTH ROUND		FIFTH ROUND	
v	West Ham (O2)	v	Derby (O2)
FOURTH ROUND		FOURTH ROUND	
v	Blackburn (O2)	v	Shrewsbury (O2)
THIRD ROUND		THIRD ROUND	
v	Sheffield Wednesday (O2)	v	Collymore (O2)
SECOND ROUND		SECOND ROUND	
v	Walsall (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
ROUND OF 32		ROUND OF 32	
v	Nottingham Forest (O2)	v	Leeds (O2)
FIFTH ROUND		FIFTH ROUND	
v	West Ham (O2)	v	Derby (O2)
FOURTH ROUND		FOURTH ROUND	
v	Blackburn (O2)	v	

Brazilian blend of nerve and skill establishes commanding lead for Briton

Masterful Hill soon home and dry

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN SÃO PAULO

THUNDER and lightning lit up a grey afternoon in the grim of the southern outskirts of this city yesterday, and drivers watched in dismay as rain bounced off the tarmac. Through the torrent came Damon Hill, supreme and unchallenged, slicing away the doubts that had surrounded his victory in the Australian Grand Prix three weeks ago.

There can be little doubt now that Hill is the overwhelming favourite to win his first Formula One motor racing world drivers' championship this season. Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams-Renault team-mate, the man who is likely to be his fiercest challenger for the title and the driver who suggested, with his performance in Melbourne on his debut, that he could do no wrong, slid off into a gravel trap before the race was even halfway through.

By then, the Englishman was in a race of his own anyway, making the most of the superiority of his car, and turning the Brazilian Grand Prix into an academic exercise. In heavy rain, or in the bright sunshower in which the race finished, he did not put a foot wrong.

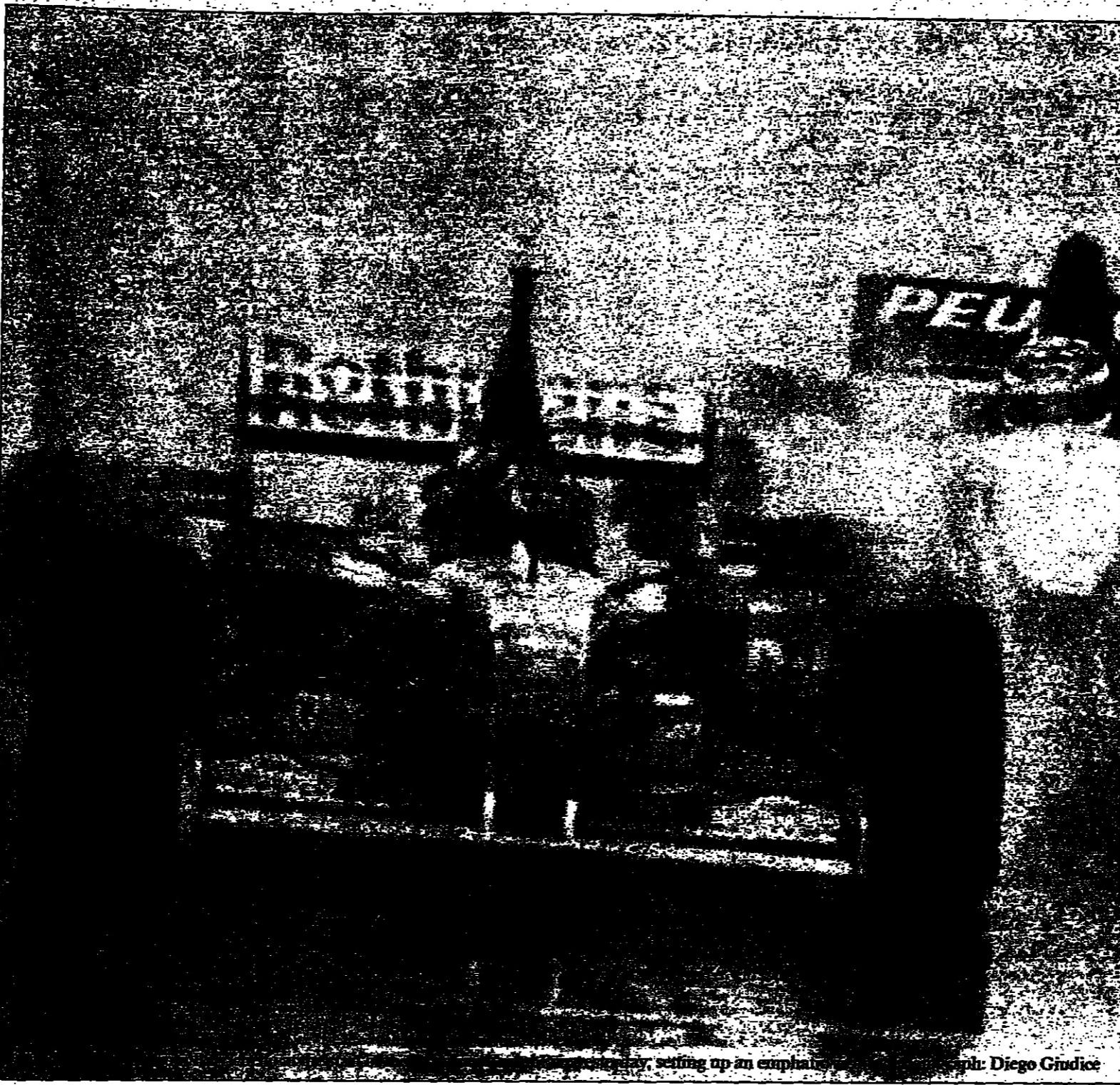
Hill started from pole position, he set the fastest lap, he won the race by nearly 18 seconds. At one point, he even lapped his nemesis Michael Schumacher. If his win in Australia owed something to fortune, he was hostage to none this time.

With two wins out of two and looking more relaxed and cheerful than at any time since he entered Formula One, Hill now leads the championship by 14 points. Villeneuve may still be a threat, but the rest seem destined to be bit-part players, at least for the first half of the season.

Hill began the race from the twelfth pole position of his career, in the midst of a downpour that had turned the pit lane into a mass of deep puddles, and which forced the drivers to use the umbrellas that usually shield them from the sun on the grid, for more conventional purposes. The circuit, which swoops up and down through a natural amphitheatre, was bathed in low cloud, and arched lightning flickered in the distance.

Hill made a tentative start, and had to slew his car to the left as a block the Jordan-Peugeot of the local hero Rubens Barrichello, who was starting alongside him on the front row. Villeneuve darted into the gap and drew alongside his team-mate, but could not press home his advantage on the sodden track.

Once he had survived that threat, Hill disappeared into the distance, producing a masterful display of driving that the late Ayrton Senna, the



acknowledged master of wet conditions, would have been proud of. By the twelfth lap, he was nearly 15 seconds clear of the field.

Behind him, in his Benetton-Renault, Jean Alesi, another wet-weather specialist, briefly pressured Villeneuve for second place.

However, as the dominance of the Williams-Renault set in, Alesi slipped back and found himself fighting to hold on to third place under the sustained assault of Barrichello. Twice, the young Brazilian overtook him at the end of the straight, and twice Alesi retook him.

As they went side by side into corner after corner, submerged in a war of skill and nerves, Schumacher, in fourth place in his Ferrari, was engaged in a copycat struggle with the Sauber-Ford of the young French-Canadian tried

Heinz-Harald Frentzen behind him. Out of the rain, a thrilling legacy had sprouted.

Despite the intense firefighting, each driver managed to fend off the challenges from behind, but just when it seemed that things had stabilised, Alesi closed dramatically on Villeneuve. The

downpour abated, and as

to block his charge at the end of the straight on the 27th lap, but was forced wide of the racing line. His wheels locked and he spun into a gravel trap.

The aura of invincibility that had clung to him during his debut in Australia had been washed away by the rain.

Soon afterwards, though, the downpour abated, and as

the drivers pounded round, a dry line began to emerge. By

midway through the 71-lap race, they were veering off the line to dampen their tyres and try to preserve them. On the fortieth lap, Hill responded to the change in conditions and made a pit stop to switch to dry tyres. His pursuers quickly followed suit, but Hill still

had a lead of more than 26 seconds over Alesi.

That lead was never seriously threatened, and with Alesi comfortable in second place, attention switched to the battle for third place, between Schumacher and Barrichello.

A huge cheer echoed across the circuit when the Brazilian, who is emerging from a difficult spell when he tried too hard to emulate Senna, overtook the world champion at the end of the straight. He was forced wide, however, and Schumacher went back ahead of him immediately.

Almost before Barrichello could resume the chase, he spun off at the next corner and out of the race. To complete Jordan's misery, his teammate, Martin Brundle, spun off one lap later, four laps from the end when he was

Successful defence puts Allcock on top of the world

FROM DAVID RYHS JONES
IN ADELAIDE

TONY ALLCOCK successfully defended his world outdoor singles title here yesterday, beating Jeff Rabkin, of Israel, 25-15 in the final. Not even David Bryant, who won the title three times, managed to win it twice in succession, and Allcock's face showed his elation when Rabkin missed with his final despairing effort.

Allcock, from Cheltenham, is not normally short on words. Four years ago, he clashed with Rabkin after Israel had beaten England in the pairs at Worthing, but yesterday, he was clearly overcome by emotion, and was unusually tongue-tied after his victory.

Given the contempt between the two in 1992, the match was good-natured and entertaining, but was never a classic because the rink caught both players by surprise.

"It was unbelievably fast," Allcock said. "All through the event, on the instructions of the World Bowls Board [WBB], the greenkeepers have been watering the green to keep the pace down to around 14 seconds, but, today, I swear it was running at 19 or 20 seconds in places."

Allcock said that he had been stung into action by criticism that he had been inconsistent. "Not that I was consistent today," he said. "Nobody could have been consistent on that rink. Why on earth did they speed it up for the final?"

Allcock, who seems to have escaped a WBB regulation that prohibits the wearing of advertising material other than that sanctioned by the organisers, was full of praise for his new Greenmaster bowls, made by A. J. Ayers in Liverpool. Throughout the event, he has been wearing the manufacturer's logo, four inches wide and an inch high, on his back pocket. Officials have turned a blind eye.

Rabkin took Allcock to 13-12, before the latter made his move. "I tried to treat it like a sets game, got my head down, and took one end at a time," he said.

Ushio, the Japanese, was the first to win the world drivers' champion-

Jansher's reign is threatened by home challengers

BY COLIN MCQUELLEN

IT IS a measure of Britain's gathering strength on the international squash scene that there has never been a greater expectation of domestic success in the Leekes British Open Championships, which reach the first-round proper stage in Cardiff today.

Peter Nicol, the Scot, leads the home challenge in the men's championship, closely followed by Del Harris, Chris Walker and Mark Chaloner, the English trio who, with Simon Parke, won the world team title last year.

Nicol and Harris are seeded to provide successive challenges to the defending champion, Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, in as tough a draw as he has faced in the game's blue ribbon event. Harris beat Jansher for the first time in the PSA world tour play-offs at Hatfield last week, and Nicol has one victory over the Pakistani in Cardiff.

Walker also faces a difficult series, with Gary Wolfe, the Canadian champion, for openers; Julien Bonat, the French No 1, as a probable second-round opponent and then Nicol in the quarter-finals.

Chaloner will need another of the heroic performances that won him the Sports Writers International Newcomer award for last year to negotiate a bottom half of the draw, which contains all the strongest Australians. He starts against the fast-improving Dan Jensen and will have to defeat Brett Marine, the No 3 seed, and Rodney Eyles, the No 2 seed, to reach the final on Sunday.

Eyles himself may find the most difficult barrier a scheduled quarter-final against Anthony Hill, his compatriot infamous for his headbutting clash with Mir Zaman Gul at the British Open in 1994. Hill drew tremendous criticism from Eyles for letting the final on Sunday.

Another Australian, Michelle Martin, begins the defence of her women's title today and is scheduled to meet Suzanne Horner, the British national champion who defeated her in the Abshot Open this month. Cassandra Jackman, the England No 1, is still waiting to win a major individual event, will need to overcome a strong home presence, including Linda Sharman, who defeated her in January, to reach a semi-final against Sarah Fitzgerald, of Australia, the No 2 seed.

SEEDS: Men: 1. Jansher Khan (Pak); 2. R. Nicol; 3. D. Harris (Eng); 4. C. Walker (Eng); 5. A. Hill (Eng); 6. M. Chaloner (Eng). Women: 1. M. Martin (Aus); 2. S. Fitzgerald (Aus); 3. L. Sharman (Eng); 4. S. Horner (Eng); 5. G. Wolfe (Eng); 6. F. Geesee (Eng).

Redgrave clocks up record win

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

THE Head of the River Trophy returned to British hands after three years of overseas domination on Saturday. Under I, a combination of GB squad narmen released briefly from their national duties for the race, won by ten seconds to give Steve Redgrave, their seven man, a record tenth win in the event.

Redgrave, reported to be "very focused" before the 44-mile marathon, certainly received great support from his national squad colleagues.

The crew were already striking 36 at Marrows and gradually built this to 40 by the finish at Putney, where they had opened up a 43-second gap ahead of their surprisingly low rating second crew.

The second and third places were also filled by British crews. London University had the advantage of a battle with Nottingham County II. The heavier UL crew had caught Nottingham by Chiswick Steps and then raced them in almost regatta fashion in the second half.

Molesley, with Olympic champions Greg and Jonny Seear in the engine room, and Peter Haining, the world lightweight skulls champion, looking small in the two seat, had a less frenetic passage directly behind UL and Nottingham and edged the third place by a split second from a smooth London RC combination.

Dundridge recorded their fifth successive victory in the Women's Boat Race at Henley yesterday.

They led from the first stroke and moved steadily away from four lengths,

Cannock win chase for title

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK were duly proclaimed the hockey champions of England before a home crowd of 2,000 yesterday, clinching the National League first division title with a 2-0 victory over Southgate.

This prize, which had become a Southern monopoly since the inception of the competition in 1988, moved for the first time to the Midlands, an achievement summed up by Martin Gibboney, the Cannock manager. "An eight-year target has come to fruition," he said.

Cannock's ultimate success was obtained after much hard work and perseverance against an unrelenting Southgate team that doubled its effort in the second half, forcing five short corners and testing the nerve of Ashton Park's goal. The architects of victory were Talcher, the centre half, Chana, at left half, and Sharpe, at outside right.

Old Loughtonians finished

third after a 5-0 victory over Indian Gymkhana, Gladman and Nick Thompson scoring two goals each. Guildford slotted into fourth position after trouncing Hull 8-0. Williams scored three goals from open play and Jennings also claimed three, from two penalty strokes and a short corner.

Southgate were worth a better destiny than sixth position. At one time, they looked potential champions, but lost the edge at vital stages of the competition.

Much of the day's entertainment was provided by Todd Cauthorn. Accidentally hit in the face in the first half and smacked in the head after the interval, Cauthorn, a 6ft 10in American, could almost have been forgiven had he lashed out, but if never crossed his mind. "Retaliation," he said, "you don't do that, especially in the other team's gym. We knew they would come at us hard, but we also knew that, if we could take the pounding, they'd get tired."

Cauthorn, responsible for 14 of his team's first 19 points, finished as the game's top scorer with 29 in Sheffield's 84-71 success. Chris Finch, his compatriot, took over in the second quarter, scoring the first ten points, including three three-pointers, and when Roger Huggins, the England international, made his presence felt after the interval, drawing the fouls to collect 21 points, the Sharks had more than enough points to withstand whatever Lakeith Humphrey and company could throw at them.

Ipswich had a tense encounter with Olton, the second division, who were still smarting after the loss of four of their players to international duty. A penalty goal by Vickie Dixon after 28 minutes settled Ipswich's nerves and put them through to the semi-finals.

Slough's season is going

Sheffield ride out the Storm

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

SHEFFIELD Sharks summoned up all the virtues that won them the Budweiser League last season to come through a difficult basketball match against Derby Storm on Saturday to take the title race into the last week of the regular season, although the championship is moving irrevocably towards London Towers.

No player showed more character for Sheffield than Todd Cauthorn. Accidentally hit in the face in the first half and smacked in the head after the interval, Cauthorn, a 6ft 10in American, could almost have been forgiven had he lashed out, but if never crossed his mind. "Retaliation," he said, "you don't do that, especially in the other team's gym. We knew they would come at us hard, but we also knew that, if we could take the pounding, they'd get tired."

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Towers are expected to secure the title, their third trophy of the season, at the expense of Hemel Hempstead Royals on Wednesday after a crushing win, by 121-76, against Chester Jets yesterday.

Hightown slip in title chase

IF HIGHTOWN win the women's national hockey league title this year, they will have earned it (Alix Ramsay writes). They have made hard work of the run-in, taking one point from a possible six over the weekend and leaving the door open for Sutton Coldfield to snatch the championship on the final day.

On Saturday, the hopes of Hightown, from Liverpool, were dampened by a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Ipswich. A subdued Hightown could not even rely on Tina Cullen, the league's top goalscorer. She missed a handful of chances to put them ahead. Ipswich, on the other hand, made the most of

what came their way, scoring the only goal through Sarah Bamfield. Things did not get much better against Leicester yesterday. Although Cullen finally found the target, giving Hightown the lead after ten minutes, they could not stop Sue Holwell, the old campaigner, equalising from a penalty corner.

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Slough's season is going

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Late goals end courageous challenge as Liverpool's collective talent sees them through to Cup Final

Fowler and McAteer break Villa's heart

Aston Villa	0
Liverpool	3

By DAVID MILLER

EASY? Not a bit of it. Aston Villa, a week after lifting the Coca-Cola Cup, stormingly gave Liverpool a physical marathon of an FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford yesterday, the result of which was never certain until Robbie Fowler and Jason McAteer scored twice in the final few minutes.

Few could complain, however, that Liverpool, the most collectively accomplished English team and unusually having only one "foreigner" in the Irishman, McAteer, should contest the final against Manchester United. Fowler once again pressed his case for inclusion in the England team and Roy Evans, Liverpool's modest and as yet little acclaimed manager, more than deserves this success.

Perversely, Villa's fate, when standing on the verge of a second Wembley final, against the same



MARC ASPLAND

opponents they controversially defeated the last time they were there 39 years ago, turned on the competitive instinct of Gareth Southgate. England may summon him for this quality during the European championship. Yesterday, his determination to get back on the field, when injured, contributed to Fowler's first goal, so psychologically valuable, after a quarter of an hour.

Southgate had temporarily left the field minutes beforehand to receive treatment on a damaged knee. He should probably have been immediately replaced by Staunton, as he would be eight minutes later. Southgate, instead, ran back on to the field, briefly, with the knee bandaged just as Jamie Redknapp — starring a first-team match for the first time since being injured playing for England against Switzerland in November — took a free kick from the right.

Momentarily, Southgate was mentally separated from the game's momentum. As the ball

dipped towards the left-hand corner of the goal area, Fowler stole in front of the man who should have been marking him to dive shin-high and head the ball wide of Bosnich low into the corner of the net. On such tiny miscalculations can the history of the game revolve.

From that moment, for the remaining half-hour of the first half, Villa were consistently the

more dangerous side, in spite of the fact that Liverpool's near-flawless inter-passing gave them more possession and expended less energy. And whenever Villa were on target, now, or later in the second half, they were denied an equalising goal by a masterful display by James, the Liverpool goalkeeper.

Never did Villa cease attempting to match Liverpool's cultured touch

that has, over the years, become second nature to successive generations of players. There were moments when you might have thought Liverpool were out on the training ground, so calm was their passing even within the tempestuous nature of a semi-final.

Villa, however, were not to be intimidated and when, finally, they had lost by an unfairly wide

margin, it was characteristic of this club that its supporters gave them a defiant, loyal ovation.

The difference between last Sunday and this, of course, is that Leeds United have not the quality that is bred at Anfield. So much of the time now Villa were bursting their lungs merely for the privilege of having possession of the ball. Some of their followers may have

gone home protesting that, three minutes after Fowler's stunning header, Villa should have had a penalty. Yorke, not for the first or last time, having made Mark Wright look as if he had two left feet, was threatening Liverpool's goal; Taylor, forcing through in support, seemed to be brought down heavily by a combination of Scales and McManaman. The

television rerun, however, makes it evident that McManaman had played the ball away before Taylor fell.

Townsend and his men dismissed the incident and four times might have drawn level but for James, who either side of the half-hour saved in succession from Yorke, Milosevic and Draper and then, with Milosevic in possession only a stride or two from the goal-line, somehow covered all the angles so that the Serb could not turn to get a shot at goal.

McManaman, who had been comparatively quiet in the first half, began to open out approaching the hour and one of his many runs all but brought another goal as Jones, overlapping on the left, crossed high into a disorganized penalty area. Back at the other end, Draper's cross to Milosevic, on the far post, brought a downward header that Ehiogu glanced on the half-volley. A goal seemed certain yet somehow James, contorting himself on the ground on the line, managed to keep the ball out. This moment probably marked the point at which Villa's hopes began to drift.

With a little over ten minutes remaining came the most perfect incident of the match, never mind that it brought no goal. Barnes, receiving the ball 30 yards out, paused as though suddenly remembering something he had meant to do before leaving home and, without a glance, struck a left-foot shot that flew like an arrow to rebound from a post. There was no visible power, the motion as exquisite as a Gower enlivener drive.

Draper still had the energy to summon another run and a shot in desperation that Scales deflected away. With Villa vainly extending their last gasp, Liverpool caught them on the counter-attack and Redknapp's free kick from the left dropped beyond the defence straight to Fowler and his left-foot drive in off a post was little inferior to that of Barnes's shortly beforehand. McAteer's nonchalantly struck third goal at the conclusion of McManaman's breakaway run signalled Villa's reluctant surrender.

ASTON VILLA (3-2) M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, P McGrath, I. Southgate (sub S Staunton), 21min, D Charles, I Taylor, A Townsend, M Draper, 2 Wright — S Milosevic (sub T Johnson), 78. D Yorke, J Jones, R Barnes, R James — S McManaman, 10min, 23min, 45min, 50min, 55min, 58min, 60min, 62min, 64min, 66min, 68min, 70min, 72min, 74min, 76min, 78min, 80min, 82min, 84min, 86min, 88min, 90min, 92min, 94min, 96min, 98min, 100min, 102min, 104min, 106min, 108min, 110min, 112min, 114min, 116min, 118min, 120min, 122min, 124min, 126min, 128min, 130min, 132min, 134min, 136min, 138min, 140min, 142min, 144min, 146min, 148min, 150min, 152min, 154min, 156min, 158min, 160min, 162min, 164min, 166min, 168min, 170min, 172min, 174min, 176min, 178min, 180min, 182min, 184min, 186min, 188min, 190min, 192min, 194min, 196min, 198min, 200min, 202min, 204min, 206min, 208min, 210min, 212min, 214min, 216min, 218min, 220min, 222min, 224min, 226min, 228min, 230min, 232min, 234min, 236min, 238min, 240min, 242min, 244min, 246min, 248min, 250min, 252min, 254min, 256min, 258min, 260min, 262min, 264min, 266min, 268min, 270min, 272min, 274min, 276min, 278min, 280min, 282min, 284min, 286min, 288min, 290min, 292min, 294min, 296min, 298min, 300min, 302min, 304min, 306min, 308min, 310min, 312min, 314min, 316min, 318min, 320min, 322min, 324min, 326min, 328min, 330min, 332min, 334min, 336min, 338min, 340min, 342min, 344min, 346min, 348min, 350min, 352min, 354min, 356min, 358min, 360min, 362min, 364min, 366min, 368min, 370min, 372min, 374min, 376min, 378min, 380min, 382min, 384min, 386min, 388min, 390min, 392min, 394min, 396min, 398min, 400min, 402min, 404min, 406min, 408min, 410min, 412min, 414min, 416min, 418min, 420min, 422min, 424min, 426min, 428min, 430min, 432min, 434min, 436min, 438min, 440min, 442min, 444min, 446min, 448min, 450min, 452min, 454min, 456min, 458min, 460min, 462min, 464min, 466min, 468min, 470min, 472min, 474min, 476min, 478min, 480min, 482min, 484min, 486min, 488min, 490min, 492min, 494min, 496min, 498min, 500min, 502min, 504min, 506min, 508min, 510min, 512min, 514min, 516min, 518min, 520min, 522min, 524min, 526min, 528min, 530min, 532min, 534min, 536min, 538min, 540min, 542min, 544min, 546min, 548min, 550min, 552min, 554min, 556min, 558min, 560min, 562min, 564min, 566min, 568min, 570min, 572min, 574min, 576min, 578min, 580min, 582min, 584min, 586min, 588min, 590min, 592min, 594min, 596min, 598min, 600min, 602min, 604min, 606min, 608min, 610min, 612min, 614min, 616min, 618min, 620min, 622min, 624min, 626min, 628min, 630min, 632min, 634min, 636min, 638min, 640min, 642min, 644min, 646min, 648min, 650min, 652min, 654min, 656min, 658min, 660min, 662min, 664min, 666min, 668min, 670min, 672min, 674min, 676min, 678min, 680min, 682min, 684min, 686min, 688min, 690min, 692min, 694min, 696min, 698min, 700min, 702min, 704min, 706min, 708min, 710min, 712min, 714min, 716min, 718min, 720min, 722min, 724min, 726min, 728min, 730min, 732min, 734min, 736min, 738min, 740min, 742min, 744min, 746min, 748min, 750min, 752min, 754min, 756min, 758min, 760min, 762min, 764min, 766min, 768min, 770min, 772min, 774min, 776min, 778min, 780min, 782min, 784min, 786min, 788min, 790min, 792min, 794min, 796min, 798min, 800min, 802min, 804min, 806min, 808min, 810min, 812min, 814min, 816min, 818min, 820min, 822min, 824min, 826min, 828min, 830min, 832min, 834min, 836min, 838min, 840min, 842min, 844min, 846min, 848min, 850min, 852min, 854min, 856min, 858min, 860min, 862min, 864min, 866min, 868min, 870min, 872min, 874min, 876min, 878min, 880min, 882min, 884min, 886min, 888min, 890min, 892min, 894min, 896min, 898min, 900min, 902min, 904min, 906min, 908min, 910min, 912min, 914min, 916min, 918min, 920min, 922min, 924min, 926min, 928min, 930min, 932min, 934min, 936min, 938min, 940min, 942min, 944min, 946min, 948min, 950min, 952min, 954min, 956min, 958min, 960min, 962min, 964min, 966min, 968min, 970min, 972min, 974min, 976min, 978min, 980min, 982min, 984min, 986min, 988min, 990min, 992min, 994min, 996min, 998min, 1000min, 1002min, 1004min, 1006min, 1008min, 1010min, 1012min, 1014min, 1016min, 1018min, 1020min, 1022min, 1024min, 1026min, 1028min, 1030min, 1032min, 1034min, 1036min, 1038min, 1040min, 1042min, 1044min, 1046min, 1048min, 1050min, 1052min, 1054min, 1056min, 1058min, 1060min, 1062min, 1064min, 1066min, 1068min, 1070min, 1072min, 1074min, 1076min, 1078min, 1080min, 1082min, 1084min, 1086min, 1088min, 1090min, 1092min, 1094min, 1096min, 1098min, 1100min, 1102min, 1104min, 1106min, 1108min, 1110min, 1112min, 1114min, 1116min, 1118min, 1120min, 1122min, 1124min, 1126min, 1128min, 1130min, 1132min, 1134min, 1136min, 1138min, 1140min, 1142min, 1144min, 1146min, 1148min, 1150min, 1152min, 1154min, 1156min, 1158min, 1160min, 1162min, 1164min, 1166min, 1168min, 1170min, 1172min, 1174min, 1176min, 1178min, 1180min, 1182min, 1184min, 1186min, 1188min, 1190min, 1192min, 1194min, 1196min, 1198min, 1200min, 1202min, 1204min, 1206min, 1208min, 1210min, 1212min, 1214min, 1216min, 1218min, 1220min, 1222min, 1224min, 1226min, 1228min, 1230min, 1232min, 1234min, 1236min, 1238min, 1240min, 1242min, 1244min, 1246min, 1248min, 1250min, 1252min, 1254min, 1256min, 1258min, 1260min, 1262min, 1264min, 1266min, 1268min, 1270min, 1272min, 1274min, 1276min, 1278min, 1280min, 1282min, 1284min, 1286min, 1288min, 1290min, 1292min, 1294min, 1296min, 1298min, 1300min, 1302min, 1304min, 1306min, 1308min, 1310min, 1312min, 1314min, 1316min, 1318min, 1320min, 1322min, 1324min, 1326min, 1328min, 1330min, 1332min, 1334min, 1336min, 1338min, 1340min, 1342min, 1344min, 1346min, 1348min, 1350min, 1352min, 1354min, 1356min, 1358min, 1360min, 1362min, 1364min, 1366min, 1368min, 1370min, 1372min, 1374min, 1376min, 1378min, 1380min, 1382min, 1384min, 1386min, 1388min, 1390min, 1392min, 1394min, 1396min, 1398min, 1400min, 1402min, 1404min, 1406min, 1408min, 1410min, 1412min, 1414min, 1416min, 1418min, 1420min, 1422min, 1424min, 1426min, 1428min, 1430min, 1432min, 1434min, 1436min, 1438min, 1440min, 1442min, 1444min, 1446min, 1448min, 1450min, 1452min, 1454min, 1456min, 1458min, 1460min, 1462min, 1464min, 1466min, 1468min, 1470min, 1472min, 1474min, 1476min, 1478min, 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1702min, 1704min, 1706min, 1708min, 1710min, 1712min, 1714min, 1716min, 1718min, 1720min, 1722min, 1724min, 1726min, 1728min, 1730min, 1732min, 1734min, 1736min, 1738min, 1740min, 1742min, 1744min, 1746min, 1748min, 1750min, 1752min, 1

Georgian discovers realities of life among Premiership talent-spotters

Bolton's rough quest targets Kinkladze

Bolton Wanderers 1
Manchester City 1

BY PETER BALL

BY TEN past three on Saturday, Rough Quest had won the Grand National at Aintree. Thirty miles to the east, at Burnden Park, the rough quest went on considerably longer, but Georgi Kinkladze discovered all too quickly that he was to be the quarry as Bolton Wanderers scrapped desperately for survival.

Kinkladze might have found out even earlier than he did. Brown, his midfield partner, who is also slight and dark, but who wears the No 17 shirt as opposed to Kinkladze's No 7, was the victim of a late challenge by Stubbs in the third minute. A statement of intent — or a case of mistaken identity?

Either way, that set the tone in a real relegation battle, from which the sides emerged with a goal and a point apiece, and little credit. Soon, Kinkladze was a crumpled

heap as Thompson cut him down and McGinlay was eyeballing Brightwell; then, Curle was booked for tripping Stubbs.

"He [Kinkladze] did me for skill," Thompson said in mitigation. "Everyone knows how skilful he is, and he showed it. It was a bit late, I'll admit that, but I'm sure it looked a lot worse than it actually was. I was trying to put in a hard tackle to let him know he was in a game."

Kinkladze soon had no illusions about that, but it was Summerbee who was eventually sent off for two bookable offences, both against Thompson. There was some sympathy from the neutrals for Summerbee, many feeling that Thompson should not have been around long enough to be a target after his encounter with Kinkladze. "That first tackle was a shocker; it was booking, but, to me, he should have been down the tunnel," Alan Ball, the City manager, said.

If the general tenor left a lot to be desired, there is increasing suspicion that Kinkladze's special talent makes him a special target. Two weeks ago, Francis Lee, the City chairman, made an impassioned appeal for referees to protect Kinkladze and his ilk. Roger Gilkes, the official on Saturday where he can have a



A back-heeled kick from Quinn, the Manchester City forward, curls beyond the reach of Ward, the Bolton goalkeeper, to give his side the lead

day, was obviously not listening. "He's got to get used to a lot of people trying to rattle him," Thompson said. "Everyone knows he is a danger man. He is one of the top players in the Premiership and, because of that, he is going to get that kind of attention."

"Sasa [Curicic], the Bolton midfield player] has had to deal with that, with a lot of man-marking. It's not easy when someone is following you around a couple of yards away for the whole 90 minutes, but that's what he is going to have to expect. That's the hardest thing for players coming over here — getting used to the toughness of the game."

Sadly, Thompson's view was echoed, without condemnation, by Niall Quinn, Kinkladze's team-mate. "Other sides are certainly letting George know he is really in the Premier League now, not some nice easy-peasy league abroad where he can have a

stroll about with the sun on his back," Quinn said.

Toughness is not all. Kinkladze, as Ball said afterwards, was the one exception as City disappeared without trace despite Quinn giving them the lead with a looping header in their first attack. Equally, the one time that Curicic escaped the attentions of Brightwell, his jinking run and cross set up Bolton's equaliser for McGinlay, just after half-time.

Quinn's goal, as Ball said, should have been the basis for a solid City victory. Instead, panic was evident from the early moments as Curicic, under no pressure, sliced a cross behind for a corner. For the rest of the game, they showed little enthusiasm for getting the ball down and playing. Curle found touch with a regularity that Rob Andrew would admire, but he was not the only offender, merely the worst.

By the end, Bolton should

have won by virtue of pressure alone, and there were moments when Sellars, Curicic and Thompson, and the overlapping runs of Phillips, offered flashes of creativity amid the blood and thunder, but their familiar weakness, the lack of a quality striker, kept them down to one point.

They made brave noises, but, deep down, they knew this was a game they had to win. The draw was a better result for City, but their programme is daunting, with their Manchester neighbours and Liverpool the visitors for two of their three remaining home games. "If we play like that against United, we might as well not bother turning up," Ball said.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): I Ward; G Beasant, C Thompson, S Ward, D Ward; J-J Gove, A Stubbs, S Sellars, A Thompson (sub: N St John); S Curicic, F De Freitas (sub: M Pearce); S Quinn; R McGinlay; S Lumb; N Curran. Referee: R Jones

WEEKLY CHANGE: Up Stayed the same Down

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Manchester Utd	32	67	+29	WWWW
2 Newcastle	30	64	+27	LWLWL
3 Liverpool	31	59	+33	WWWWL
4 Aston Villa	32	58	+16	WWWWL
5 Arsenal	32	54	+16	DWWLW
6 Tottenham	32	54	+11	WWLWL
7 Everton	33	51	+15	WDDWL
8 Blackburn	32	48	+8	LDWWL
9 Nottingham Forest	31	47	-1	LWDWL
10 Chelsea	32	45	+2	WDDDL
11 West Ham	32	45	-5	LDWLW
12 Leeds	30	39	-8	LWLWL
13 Middlesbrough	33	39	-12	LLDDW
14 Sheffield Wed	32	35	-8	LLWWL
15 Wimbledon	32	33	-16	DDLWW
16 Manchester City	33	31	-23	LDWLW
17 Southampton	31	28	-17	LLLWW
18 QPR	32	27	-19	LLDDW
19 Coventry	32	27	-21	DDLLL
20 Bolton	33	26	-27	WWLWD

Without Watson and Le

Coventry lacking a saving grace

Tottenham Hotspur 3
Coventry City 1

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

IF COVENTRY City are to produce yet another death-defying stunt, they had better start perfecting it soon. The ground is beginning to fall away. At a time when other stragglers — Bolton Wanderers and Queens Park Rangers — are showing belated signs of life, Coventry are fading. This was their third defeat in a row and their next two matches, against Liverpool and Manchester United, promise nothing more than heartache.

At least Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, remained his ebullient self. "A couple of easy games to turn it all round," he said. Their supporters are not in such good heart. One infiltrated the post-match press conference, puncturing the upbeat mood that Atkinson was fostering.

It is all quite sad. Coventry have done nobody real harm in their 29-year tenure in the top division. Their stock-in-trade season has generally taken one of two forms: a) a blindingly good start followed by a steady descent and final survival; b) a blindingly bad start followed by slow and painful improvement and final survival.

You fear for them, though, if their long-standing grip on the coat-tails of the elite is broken. Other than a gift for getting out of scrapes, there is no pressing reason why they should not fall silently into the poverty trap. No great tradition to rely on, no secret horde of born-again Coventry supporters waiting to fall out of the cupboard, no real power base, no sugar daddy in the boardroom. They are just Coventry: a good visiting team who once surprised everyone, not least themselves, by winning the FA Cup (against Tottenham Hotspur, of course).

BY SIMON WILDE

WIMBLEDON may be a football club, but their game these days is the Balloon Game. Should they be allowed to stay aboard the FA Carling Premiership flight or not? If they are to stay, they must be permitted to move to a new home ground in Dublin, the only place where crowds and gate receipts would be big enough for them to survive; if not, all their fellow passengers need to do is let the torch of market prices carry the ship ever higher and they will eventually fall overboard from financial asphyxiation.

This stark reality came home to Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, after his team had all but reserved

Defeat by Tottenham was a cameo of Coventry's lifelong struggles — any relegation candidate's struggles, for that matter. A goal up at half-time, courtesy of a splendid volley by Dublin, Coventry were in control. Then, within the space of two minutes, Dublin missed an easier chance. Sheringham headed home a rebound after a corner and Fox took advantage of a lucky ricochet off Richardson to put Tottenham ahead. From possibly 2-0 up to a certain 2-1 down, Fox added a third goal not long after and Coventry's delicate spirit was ground to the consistency of chewing-gum.

"There's nothing in the laws which say we can't get 18 points from our last six matches," Atkinson said. Something in the laws of probability, though, suggests that the National Lottery offers better odds.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker, D Austin, S Fletcher, C Thompson, C Wilson — R Fox, J Dose, D Holland, A Richardson, S Sheringham.

COVENTRY CITY: S Covicic (sub: J Salako, 90min) — E Jess, G Stančić, P Williams, K Richardson, P Ndlovu — N Whelan, D Dublin.

Referee: R Hart

No home comforts for Kinnear

Wimbledon 1
Nottingham Forest 0

BY ALYSON RUDD

ELLAND Road provides players with a canopy, under which they run out onto the pitch. It is sponsored by The Flying Pizza Company. If the Leeds United supporters had brought any mozzarella and tomato with them on Saturday, they would have thrown it.

This game represented an opportunity for Leeds to kiss and make up with their followers after a rather negative bout with Liverpool in the FA Cup was followed by a pathetic performance against Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup final.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, was booted at Wembley. He was booted as he took his place in the dug-out on Saturday, but then the fairer-minded supporters drowned it out with applause.

a place in the balloon for another year with a gritty defeat of Nottingham Forest at Selhurst Park. It was a desperate affair, trench warfare on a churned-up pitch, but a late push by Wimbledon, inspired by the introduction of Holdsworth, gave them the three points.

Kinnear confessed that it was not pretty to watch, but what can one expect when his players are performing in a borrowed, three-quarters empty stadium, which they loathe? It is no coincidence, he said, that all their best performances would be away from home. "It was like a morgue out there," he said. He obviously missed the one man in the ground more vocal than himself — "You've got a lot of fans out there, Joe!"

Kinnear said that he had to drag his players up by the boots at half-time, remind them that their futures were at

stake. They responded with a passionate final 20 minutes, helped by the freedom that the arrival of Holdsworth created. An ankle injury has made him an infrequent starter in recent weeks, but immediately he showed his worth in the air, rising at the back post to head a corner to Clarke, who shot over the bar.

Forest did not heed the warning and, a minute later, Wimbledon repeated the move, this time Holdsworth heading the ball home himself.

"The sooner we move to Dublin, the better," Kinnear said. "We would have big support there and, once we were able to spend more, we would become a force like Rangers or Celtic. At the moment, there is no way we can spend even £1 million on a player and, if we moved to Dublin, we would only upset 4,000 people."

Whether Wimbledon will

put their hands together for. How far away those halcyon days of Yeboah's splendid strike stinging Liverpool, of home trophy double hopes, must seem. Leeds are now not even close enough to the relegation places in the FA Carling Premiership for a great escape to give a season that promised so much some kind of finale.

If only Wilkinson's side could lose their next seven matches, needing to win against Coventry City on the final day of the season to stay in the Premiership. Then, the Leeds manager could emerge as some sort of conqueror soon as is feasible.

"I said to those footballers we are going to cancel the last eight games — on Monday or Tuesday, when they've got some of this out of their system — they would be disappointed," Wilkinson said. "Let us hope that he is right, for they did not give that impression on Saturday."

Leeds United 0
Middlesbrough 1

Leeds United (4-4-2): I Luke (sub: G Blunt, 48min); G Kelly, J Pemberton (sub: M Jackson, 80), D Weatherill, L Radcliffe — A Gray, G McAllister, C Palmer, H Kewell (sub: R Wallace, 80) — B Deane, G Speed (sub: D Morrison, 80), D Riordan, G Wood, D White, N Pearson, P Whelan, N Cox, J Pollock, M Musgrove, G Kenanagh, C Fleming — N Barry, J Hendrie.

Wilkinson: mixed reception

Wilkins detects brighter signs in twilight zone

Queens Park Rangers 3
Southampton 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

IN THE Loftus Road press room, the winners and losers impart their words of wisdom from a dais, via a microphone. It gives an orderly, almost statesmanlike, feel to the usually hectic, sometimes fraught, post-match question-and-answer sessions.

What it also does, to those alone in the spotlight, is expose any flaw, any weakness of character. There is no hiding place, only a swift exit. Reputation can be enhanced or shot to pieces in the feverish aftermath of victory or defeat, and frequently are.

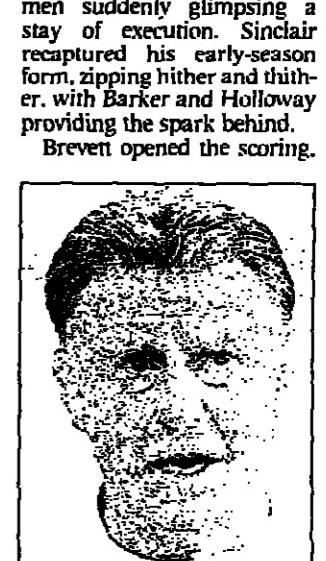
Rangers were sharper, more alive, like condemned men suddenly glimpsing a stay of execution. Sinclair recaptured his early-season form, zipping hither and thither, with Barker and Holloway providing the spark behind. Breverton opened the scoring,

Tissier, who were suspended, and Hall, who was injured. Southampton lacked a key component in each department — defence, midfield and attack. Yet, such has been Le Tissier's indifference this season, it is not easy to assess the impact of his absence.

A split-second of brilliance, even if he contributed nothing else, could have rescued a rapidly deteriorating display. Possibly, an inswinging corner or a curling free kick could have led to a goal. Possibly, Ninety minutes of his most earnest graft could have galvanised his colleagues and saved the day. Forget it. Not his style.

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Breverton opened the scoring,



Merrington: disappointed

in the 24th minute, with his first goal in 88 appearances for Rangers, after Beasant had saved Sinclair's shot. Ditchie's celebration, after clipping in another Sinclair assist in the 50th minute, involved a partial strip and the twirling of his shirt above his head. It was his thirteenth goal of the season, though ten would be a more accurate count had he not claimed deflected own goals by Babb, Irwin and Atkin.

Confirming Rangers' superiority, Galien nodded into a vacant net after Beasant had been deceived by McDonald's unintentional top-spin. Nobbs was truly deceived, though; a battle had been won and lost, but the war goes on. No moons, parrots or hypno from this press-room pupillist.

"I was bitterly disappointed with our second-half performance," he said. "You try to protect your players, but I can't really protect them after that. They're down there in the dressing-room having a few words with each other and I've let them get on with it."

Wilkinson has similar virtues — patience, a belief in the fine skills of football and a refusal to accept the odds against survival. He, too, operates in financial handicaps and he, too, accepts the challenge with barely a murmur.

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FOOTBALL RESULTS



BLACKBURN
23-92
Sent off: G Reilly (Blackburn) 3
Blackburn: Rivers, T. Rivers, C. Coleman, J. Kenny, T. McLean, S. Barker, V. Schäfer (sub: W. McLean), 71 (in), M. Heslop, J. Wilson, H. Miller (sub: G. Fenton), 81 (in), R. Berg, 5 (Recov).
Booked: Calvert.

EVERTON 10-0 **BLACKBURN** 10-3
Sent off: T. Rivers, C. Coleman, J. Kenny, T. McLean, S. Barker, V. Schäfer (sub: W. McLean), 71 (in), M. Heslop, J. Wilson, H. Miller (sub: G. Fenton), 81 (in), R. Berg, 5 (Recov).

Booked: Calvert.

BOLTON 10-1 **MAN CITY** 11-1
Sent off: N. Summers (Man City) 76

Bolton: Ward, G. Ward, G. Berry, G. Johnson (sub: M. Pantelidis, 77 min), J. Pfeiffer, J. McColl (sub: N. Summers, 82 min), D. Black, S. Barker, I. Hollaway, A. Doherty, K. Gallon, 1 (Recov).

Booked: Calvert, Thompson.

MANCHESTER CITY 10-1 **BOLTON** 11-1
Sent off: N. Summers (Man City) 76

Bolton: Ward, G. Ward, G. Berry, G. Johnson (sub: M. Pantelidis, 77 min), J. Pfeiffer, J. McColl (sub: N. Summers, 82 min), D. Black, S. Barker, I. Hollaway, A. Doherty, K. Gallon, 1 (Recov).

Booked: Calvert, Thompson.

LEEDS 10-0 **MIDDLESBROUGH** 11-1
Sent off: J. Lewis (Leeds) 4 (pen)

Leeds: United: J. Lewis (sub: B. Hunt, 46 min), G. Kelly, C. Palmer, J. Radford, O. Wetherall, B. Dean, G. McMillan, G. Speed, J. Pendleton (sub: M. Jackson, 80 min), A. Gray, H. Frevel (sub: R. Wallace), 81 (in), R. Wallace.

Booked: Pendleton, Thompson.

MIDDLESBROUGH 10-0 **LEEDS** 11-1
Sent off: J. Lewis (Leeds) 4 (pen)

Leeds: United: J. Lewis (sub: B. Hunt, 46 min), G. Kelly, C. Palmer, J. Radford, O. Wetherall, B. Dean, G. McMillan, G. Speed, J. Pendleton (sub: M. Jackson, 80 min), A. Gray, H. Frevel (sub: R. Wallace), 81 (in), R. Wallace.

Booked: Pendleton, Thompson.

WIMBLEDON 10-0 **NOTT F** 9-0
Sent off: N. Summers (Man City) 76

Wimbledon: D. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, A. Kimble, V. Jones, D. Blackwell, R. East, D. Lee (sub: G. Peacock, 60 min), G. Peacock, J. McLean, S. McNaughton, R. Thompson, S. Collymore (sub: D. Rusu, 81 min), J. Barnes, R. Fowler.

Booked: Cunningham.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 10-0 **WIMBLEDON** 9-0
Sent off: N. Summers (Man City) 76

Nottingham Forest: M. Croxley, B. Bowles, D. Burrows (sub: J. Celona, 50 min), P. Wilkins, J. Richardson, P. Hobson, D. Dublin, H. Whelan, E. Jess (sub: G. Stachan, 60 min), L. Ditch, R. Shaw.

Referee: R. Hart.

WIMBLEDON 10-0 **NOTT F** 9-0
Sent off: N. Summers (Man City) 76

Wimbledon: D. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, A. Kimble, V. Jones, D. Blackwell, R. East, D. Lee (sub: G. Peacock, 60 min), G. Peacock, J. McLean, S. McNaughton, R. Thompson, S. Collymore (sub: D. Rusu, 81 min), J. Barnes, R. Fowler.

Booked: Cunningham.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 10-0 **WIMBLEDON** 9-0
Sent off: N. Summers (Man City) 76

Nottingham Forest: M. Croxley, D. Lee (sub: G. Stachan, 60 min), P. Wilkins, J. Richardson, P. Hobson, D. Dublin, H. Whelan, E. Jess (sub: G. Stachan, 60 min), L. Ditch, R. Shaw.

Referee: R. Hart.

FIRST DIVISION

HEARTS 0-0 **TALKIRK** 1-2
Sent off: A. Farquharson (Talkirk) 32

Hearts: J. McAllister, J. McAllister, 40 (in), C. McAllister, 41 (in), C. McAllister, 42 (in), C. McAllister, 43 (in), C. McAllister, 44 (in), C. McAllister, 45 (in), C. McAllister, 46 (in), C. McAllister, 47 (in), C. McAllister, 48 (in), C. McAllister, 49 (in), C. McAllister, 50 (in), C. McAllister, 51 (in), C. McAllister, 52 (in), C. McAllister, 53 (in), C. McAllister, 54 (in), C. McAllister, 55 (in), C. McAllister, 56 (in), C. McAllister, 57 (in), C. McAllister, 58 (in), C. McAllister, 59 (in), C. McAllister, 60 (in), C. McAllister, 61 (in), C. McAllister, 62 (in), C. McAllister, 63 (in), C. McAllister, 64 (in), C. McAllister, 65 (in), C. McAllister, 66 (in), C. McAllister, 67 (in), C. McAllister, 68 (in), C. McAllister, 69 (in), C. McAllister, 70 (in), C. McAllister, 71 (in), C. McAllister, 72 (in), C. McAllister, 73 (in), C. McAllister, 74 (in), C. McAllister, 75 (in), C. McAllister, 76 (in), C. McAllister, 77 (in), C. McAllister, 78 (in), C. McAllister, 79 (in), C. 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Ministry's decision faces legal challenge

Brian Clarke says anglers feel commercial salmon interests are getting favoured treatment

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) is nobody's favourite department just now. The beef crisis is simply the latest issue to focus attention on perceived conflicts of interest between MAFF's role in managing the wishes of the commercial food lobby and its responsibility to the public at large.

Many issues exist that seem to reflect such conflicts. Some of them involve environmentalists and conservationists, not excluding anglers, as a report in *The Times*, on the damage that the farmed signal crayfish is doing in fresh waters, recently illustrated.

One just coming to a head is the long-running battle over salmon licences and the balance that the ministry is striking between the interests of the commercial salmon netters, on the one hand, and those of the environment and individual salmon anglers, on the other.

The Salmon and Trout Association (S and TA) is so incensed by the ministry's latest decision that it is seeking a judicial review of it — an unprecedented step. The S and TA believes that the ministry is deliberately increasing licence fees for anglers so that it can hold commercial netting licences down — and that this may be illegal.

The problem has its origins in the collapse of salmon stocks. Possible reasons include cyclical changes in sea temperatures and salinity — about which, if true, there is little that purdy man can do. Pollution and habitat degradation in rivers are likely to be factors in some places. Over-exploitation by high seas netters means that fewer fish return to the countries of their birth.

Indiscriminate exploitation of salmon off our own coasts by net fisheries may be making fatal and, as yet, unidentified inroads into the stocks on specific rivers.

The National Rivers Authority (NRA), which formally becomes absorbed into the new Environment Agency today, has long acknowledged the decline. It has sought to ease matters at a local level by introducing millions of young farmed salmon to the wild; by tagging individual salmon and monitoring their movements; by cleaning up spawning redds and the rest. This year, the NRA puts salmon conservation on a formal, national basis by introducing a management plan covering the whole of England and Wales.

It is all long-term, labour-intensive work and it costs money. The NRA's fisheries group, which carries out the work, depends largely on MAFF funds. The ministry has been reducing these funds each year — from £13.4 million in 1991-92 to £7.5 million this year and £6.5 million next.

One way that the NRA has sought to make up the loss has been by reducing head count. Indeed, there are concerns, among other things, about its ability in future to meet its fisheries obligations. The NRA

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

Falkus obituary, page 19



Thompson's production line making net gains

By STUART JONES

ROGER THOMPSON has had to modify his ideal. He set out to build "a factory of Davis Cup players", fit, perhaps, to conquer the world. Instead, he has redefined his boundaries and, in establishing Repton as the school with the best tennis players, merely conquered the country.

The process did not begin immediately he was appointed as the master in charge two decades ago. His ambitious plan to run a programme throughout the year was rejected until David Jewel was appointed headmaster of the Derbyshire school in 1979. "To me, he was a jewel," Thompson said. Permission was granted for a scheme that, within a year, transformed Repton from "nothing" to the second best school in England behind Millfield. "I knew we could do that because the standard was desperately low," he said. Sixteen years later, he does not consider it to be appreciably higher.

His anger was barely concealed as he revealed the widespread lack of initiative. "There are three other schools doing these programmes now," he said. "There needs to be 50 or 60. It is pathetic." He is opposed on two fronts, by

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

public apathy and by parental concern. "Tim Henman [the nation's No 1] is probably our best [home-grown] prospect since Buster Mottram 20 years ago. Yet, if you went onto the streets of Derby, they wouldn't have a clue who he is. The concept of tennis is still Wimbeldon, grass and summer."

"Some parents were looking for this kind of scheme, but others consider it undesirable to concentrate too much on one sport. To succeed, though, you have to be so selfish as to be highly unusual. Also, masters who know much about tennis are relatively few."

Thompson, 50, does not pretend to be an expert himself. He did captain Derbyshire, however, and, as a regular visitor to tournaments around the country, he can clearly spot talent. His first

three recruits were from Bristol, Bolton and Bakewell. Matthew Dix, 14, Nigel Beedham and Duncan Ashworth, both 16, won the Youl Cup, the public schools championship that Repton had never held, and finished as runners-up in the Glanvill Cup, the national tournament, in 1990.

In the past 15 years, Repton has regained the Youl Cup 11 times and held the Glanvill

Cup on nine occasions. Thompson appreciates the financial support given to him by Wilson, the only leading company to respond to his requests for sponsorship. Wilson's representative was Tony Pickard, later to coach Stefan Edberg and Petr Korda and to captain the Great Britain Davis Cup team. "I said I would like to produce a factory of Davis Cup players," Thompson said. "He told me if I produced one player in ten years, it would be a miracle. I thought he was being unduly pessimistic, but, as it turned out, he was quite right."

A couple of old boys have featured in the competition, but Thompson admits that Dermot Sweeney and Mark Choy, who represented Zambia and Singapore, respectively, "would not have been



Repton's tennis squad of Marc Powell, left, Adrian Barnes and Jamie Drummond

anywhere near getting into the British team".

Repton's coaches have been of notable quality. They have included Keith Reynolds, now with the Lawn Tennis Association, Ashley Broomehead, Andrew Jarrett, Leighton Alfred, who works with Miles MacLagan, Steve Heron and, for the past two years, Nick Fulwood.

Thompson estimates that his present group of pupils could be the best for four years. Adrian Barnes, 16, has already played for Britain and Jamie Drummond and Marc Powell recently beat the top Millfield doubles pair. None of them, however, is committed to a future in tennis.

The three prodigies opted to go to university in the United States. "There was nowhere for them to go here, although centres are being set up this year at Loughborough, Bath, Stirling and Cardiff," Thompson said.

Thompson has not yet forsaken his own ideal. "I want to establish a place where this operation could continue but alongside a full-time squad who didn't have to pursue academic work and the facilities could also be used by local schools within 40 miles," he said. "Repton is perhaps too limited a market."



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NO TURNING BACK

Rough Quest delivers telling late challenge to give trainer fitting reward for resilience

National theatre provides stage for Casey's skills

By JULIAN MUSCAT

IT would have been worth paying more than a penny for the thoughts of Terry Casey as Rough Quest, the winner of the Martell Grand National at Aintree on Saturday, returned home to a rapturous reception yesterday in the heart of stockbroker country outside Dorking, in Surrey.

Just over two years ago Casey's life had ground to a shuddering halt. A career with horses was all he ever wanted but all it delivered was a financial predicament so precarious that his brother, a successful businessman, advised him to cut his losses and run.

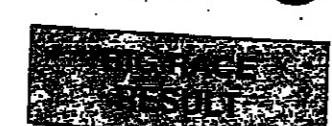
Casey cut his losses but declined to run. The man with no family connections in racing relinquished his licence in February 1994 but the lure of the thoroughbred was to prove too strong. Two months later, among adverts for tipping lines and vacancies for stable lads in the trade press, Casey, 50, noticed an opening at Andrew Wates's 700-acre

residence to take care of the stables.

Thus was forged the alliance that plotted a magnificent victory as Rough Quest swept past Encore Un Peu to become the first successful Grand National favourite since Grifar oblige punters 14 years ago.

In the event, both Casey and Wates were starved of the winning feeling by a 15-minute stewards' inquiry into Rough Quest's wayward passage up the run-in. On a personal level, any intervention by the stewards would have amounted to a savage reversal for Casey. The fates have hardly been kind to the man from Donegal, on Ireland's north-west coast.

"I bought Malt House Stables in Lambourn in 1992 and



Going: good

3.00 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL CHASE (Handicap; grade II; 2m 4f)

ROUGH QUEST b/g Crash Course - Our

Quest (a Water) 10-7 M Fitzgerald

7-1 fav. (The Times Private Handicapper's top rating)

ENCORE UN PEU ch g Nicos - Come

Home (a V Navy) 8-10 D Bridgewater

2-1 fav. (The Times Private Handicapper's second best rating)

SUPERIOR FINISH b/g Emancipated

Dunwoody (9-1) 3-1 fav. (The Times Private Handicapper's third best rating)

SIR PETER LEY b/g Teessope - Picture (John

Doyle Construction Ltd) 8-10 D Mr G

ALSO RAN: 8 SON OF WAR (ur), Young

Politics (b/g Lord, Party Politics) 10-10 D

BRACKENFIELD (ur), Greenhill Rafferty, Three

Stars Metal (b/g Seven Stars) 200

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Catt moves to position of strength

Bristol 5
Bath 43

By BRYAN STILES

If there were any lingering doubts that Mike Catt should play at stand-off half as Bath strive to secure the league and cup double, his splendid display against Bristol on Saturday should have eradicated them.

Yet, Bath still play the guessing game. In the time-honoured fashion of professional football-speak, they claim that they will take each game as it comes and pick the team to suit the occasion, and that might mean playing him in his England position of full back.

Earlier in the season, Bath

passes to send him over the line.

Catt would not be drawn on which position he should be used in. "I don't mind where I play when we play like we did today," he said. "It was good fun. We should have had 50 points."

The reason that the half-century mark was not breached was because Jonathan Callard, Bath's place-kicking maestro, had an unusual day, missing with six of his ten attempts. Bristol must have been grateful: it was, in any case, the biggest margin of defeat that they have endured in the Courage Clubs Championship.

At least Bristol are £250 better off after the presentation, on Saturday, of a cheque from the Sports Grounds Initiative, towards the cost of building the new West Stand at the Memorial Ground. They would probably be willing to swap pounds for points as they struggle near the foot of the first division table.

Bath are still leading the division and this resounding victory illustrates their determination to recapture the title and retain the Pilkington Cup (they meet Leicester in the final on May 4). Although much of their play was of an extremely high order, the players told Bryan Ashton, the coach, that they are capable of playing even better before the end of the season.

Bath dominated the lineouts and the scrums and, apart from one ten-minute patch in the first half, Bristol were on the receiving end. Bath were 19-0 ahead at half-time thanks to tries from de Glanville, Geoghegan and Guscott, the latter two scoring one more apiece to add to those from Lunsmore and Hilton. Thomas was harried unmercifully by Robinson, but escaped to score a consolation try in the last minute.

SCORERS: Bristol: Try: Thomas, Bath: Tries: Geoghegan (2), de Glanville, Guscott (2); Conversions: Callard (4).

BRISTOL: P. Hull, B. Brooks, D. Tukey, F. Tait, S. Kyte, J. Hilton, N. Thomas, M. Catt, A. Ashton, G. Callard, J. Fenton, M. Gurney, A. Evans, G. Archer, J. Dixon, C. Barrow.

BATH: J. Callard, A. Lunsmore, P. de Glanville, J. Guscott, S. Geoghegan, M. Catt, A. Ashton, M. Hilton, R. Robinson, S. O'Gorman, B. Clark, A. Webster (temporary replacement for de Glanville (54-62min)).

Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool)

agreed to use him at full back to help to further his cause with England, but, with the international season over and a rib injury sidelining Richard Butland, their regular stand-off, Bath have been using Catt in the No 10 position.

He showed that he has grown in the job. His speed of foot, thought and deed bemused the Bristol defence and he played a significant part in almost all of Bath's seven tries, his best work being reserved for Guscott's second try when Catt darted to his left just inside the Bristol half, causing the defence to move with him. He realised that they had left a small gap between backs and forwards, so he swerved back, danced around two defenders, accelerated into the 22 and gave Guscott the sweetest of

Possible new role for Richards in wake of Russ departure



Sparingly-populated stands at Central Park, Wigan, disappointed Orrell officials hoping to revive their fortunes with a change of venue

Wheeler dealing with insiders

Orrell 10
Leicester 38

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE faint taste of dissatisfaction lingered over the weekend: the manner and timing of Tony Russ's departure from Leicester, the disappointing response to Orrell's venture into rugby league territory for their game with the champions on Saturday and the match itself, a scrambling, erratic affair that served merely to sustain Leicester's challenge to Bath in the Courage Clubs Championship.

Perhaps, in this transitional season, such dissatisfaction will tinge almost every aspect of the game. The response of one club, Butleigh Amateurs, from Somerset, whose officials were vocal at the Rugby Football Union's special general meeting eight days ago, has been to propose a reversion to the past in the shape of a 20-a-side game that they intend to call Butleigh football.

If that sounds fanciful, it is no more so than the thought that, within a week of Leicester clinching a place in the Pilkington Cup final, their director of rugby would be dismissed. Russ, 50 on the day of his going, will not be seen at Welford Road again, having discovered that many of his functions have been subsumed in the appointment of Peter Wheeler as the club's chief executive.

This is either ruthless or brave, depending upon your view of rugby's new world order. Wheeler is not so foolish as to try to run a one-man show, which is contrary to the integrated administration for which his club is famous, yet Leicester, historically, have prospered under strong individuals and this may be the right time for another.

Wheeler admits to differences of opinion with Russ about the way forward and, rather than allowing the situation to fester, he has lanced the boil. The rest of the English game will stand amazed that so successful a coach as Russ has been forced out, but

Wheeler hopes to have replaced him by the end of April, with a director of coaching rather than of rugby, whose brief will be to tend to the organisational needs of the club's strong team of amateur coaches.

That implies an individual from within the Leicester fold. Indeed, Wheeler has hinted that there may be a role for

Full results and
league tables . Page 31

Dean Richards within the professional establishment, should the England No 8 choose not to resume his police career after his present sabbatical. "We have a lot of experience in-house at Leicester and we also have some senior players coming to the end of their careers," Wheeler said.

Richards, missing from the win over Orrell because of a knee injury, handed over the captaincy to Rory Underwood, another of those seniors, who

paid tribute to the "historic" nature of two rugby union clubs coming together at Central Park, the home of Wigan, the rugby league champions. Sadly, history passed many people by. Only 3,657 turned up, though more will surely be present on April 20, when Bath play Orrell there.

"I am disappointed; we had hoped for 6,700," Ron Pimblett, the Orrell chairman, said. On the other hand, they filled Wigan's nine hire boxes, of which they have only three at Edgehill Road, and the roots of a year-round rugby stadium in Wigan are strengthening.

"Unless we get help from outside, we will have to move because we can't generate enough cash from our crowds," Pimblett said. "I also believe that in less than five years there will be only one game of rugby anyway — not necessarily because either code wants it, but because television will require it and both Wigan and ourselves are looking hard at the future."

Orrell's present is limited to

remaining in the first division. Aspirations of playing in Europe have slipped away, as steadily as the drain of possession to Leicester's experienced forwards, who may have found Clive Cooper a stalwart opponent in the lineup but ruled the loose ball with a rod of iron.

That gave Niall Malone, their stand-off half, the chance to play probably his best all-round game in the senior side. The sadness was that Leicester's midfield could not build more from it; instead, it was left to the tireless John Liley to motor past 350 points for the season and put the indifferent work of others to shame.

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Orrell's present is limited to

Newport's errors set Neath on romp to the top

Neath 65
Newport 23

By GERALD DAVIES

NEATH moved a point ahead of Pontypridd and two clear of Cardiff, who have a match in hand, at the top of the Heineken League on Saturday, by virtue of scoring eight tries and gaining maximum bonus points against Newport at The Gnoll.

They did so in a game of quirky eccentricities, not the least being that Neath should eventually harvest such an abundance of points when, in the closing stages of the first half, they found themselves in arrears not by the odd point or two, but by a margin of 20-3.

Newport had not exactly cut a dash. True, their defence was unbending, and Gareth Rees shunted the ball vast distances so that they could keep Neath at bay when they had threatened most, but they had hardly been convincing elsewhere.

One moment, the teams were exchanging penalty goals. Tellingly, Rees had to kick both his from on or near the halfway line, with Horgan, for Neath, kicking his one from some 25 metres. Then, things changed dramatically and put the score absurdly out of kilter with events. Martin Llewellyn launched a counter-attack on the left from Richard Jones's miskick, and a fine try resulted for Richard Rees on the right. Then, when a Neath attack broke down in the Newport half, Llewellyn was instrumental in creating the space for Simon Davies's try. Gareth Rees converted both.

Neath's ambitions were dissolving in the warm spring sun. When Gareth Llewellyn crossed the line and scored what appeared to be a perfectly good try, he was recalled by a eagle-eyed touch judge for a previous infringement.

When, later, the same touch judge, not quite so eagle-eyed, failed to notice that a 60-metre line kick had bounced half a

Orkney's hopes of being allowed to take part in the play-offs for promotion to the seventh division of the national league in Scotland received a boost yesterday. After protests, the Scottish Rugby Union has agreed to again canvass opinions of clubs from the two lowest divisions and, if necessary, hold a meeting at Murrayfield for all concerned. Orkney had been told last week that they would not be able to compete because of the difficulties and cost of travelling.

yard in the field of play, and signalled for a lineout at the point where the ball was kicked, the Neath crowd must have felt that the team had more than just Newport to contend with.

They might also have felt that, with the referee being from their neck of the woods, they might not get any favours from his direction, either; any transgression or reasonable doubt, like a tussle for the ball on the ground, seemed to go in Newport's favour in the early stages.

Before such doubts took permanent root, John Davies crashed over for a vital try in the second minute of stoppage time and Neath began applying pressure. Horgan kicked a penalty goal, mighty shove at the scrum secured a penalty try, and the teams were level.

Having given Neath a run for their money in the first half, Newport now handed the prize to Neath on a plate. In a period of 11 minutes, four stray passes by Newport landed helpfully in Neath's hands, and tries resulted.

Although Gareth Rees had restored the lead briefly with another long-distance penalty goal, two of his subsequent passes resulted in tries for Neath. Passes by Simon Davies and Adam Palfrey led to two more. Richard Jones and Geraint Evans were the beneficiaries with two tries each.

The frequency of these raised a smile. When had a game ever been won by four interceptions? Steve Williams and Horgan were the other scorers, with Horgan, who kicked all eight conversions, collecting 30 points in all.

SCORERS: Neath: Tries: Richard Jones (2), Evans (2), Davies, S. Williams, Horgan (8). Penalty try: Horgan (3). Newport: Tries: P. Rees, Davies, Conversions: G Rees (2).

NEATH: Richard Jones, G. Evans, J. Palfrey, G. Rees, S. Williams, G. Davies, P. Horgan, D. Morris, B. Williams, J. Davies, J. Boddy, Glyn Lewellyn, Gareth Llewellyn, Robin Jones, S. Davies, G. Williams, G. Evans, G. Davies (15min); M. Williams (10 min), G. Davies (27). **NEWPORT:** S. Davies, P. Rees, A. Palfrey, M. Davies, G. Williams, G. Evans, G. Davies, G. Rees, G. Williams, G. Davies, G. Evans, G. Davies (15min); M. Williams (10 min), G. Davies (27).

Referees: C. Thomas (Neath); G. Davies (Newport); G. Evans (Orkney); G. Evans (Pontypridd); G. Evans (Cardiff); G. Evans (Wales); G. Evans (Wales).

For your company golf day... ...it's the business

THE TIMES MEET PERSON Corporate Golf Challenge

Challenge open to any company organisation or body (not of a society basis) in the British Isles which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.

Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool)

How to participate

1. All you have to do is take part in the Challenge. Register your golf day using the form right - then on the day itself, submit the results.
2. Simply send off the completed form, together with the registration fee (£125 plus VAT if applicable) as soon as possible, to your golf day and we'll enter you in the competition.
3. The top four scoring golfers at your golf day's individual leaderboard competition (including up to three guests (per golfer) will receive a £100 gift certificate for a meal at The Royal Liverpool Golf Club.
4. Your total of four will, if they aggregate 200 or more, qualify for the final.
5. The winning company from each of the twelve regions will compete in the final at Royal Liverpool Golf Club in September to determine the overall champion.
6. The winning team will be invited to play in the final.
7. The competition is open to all amateur golfers.
8. All golf days registered after 12th September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

Company Registration

Company name	.....
Company address	.....
Post Code	.....
Telephone No.	.....
Fax No.	.....
E-mail	.....
Name of company representative to whom all correspondence will be sent.	.....
Will be holding a golf day at	.....
Address	.....
Country	.....
(Name and date of your golf day) have to be received before June 1st and no later than 12 noon on the day of your golf day.	.....
(Name and date of your golf day) have to be received before June 1st and no later than 12 noon on the day of your golf day.	

Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times' "Corporate golf days" feature.
- Your golf day featured in The Times' "golf day" column.
- A cast of your personnel event leaders for your golf day.
- Copies of The Times delivered to the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- Complimentary copies of the event newsletter on your golf day.
- A golf day management software package for your golf day.
- Complimentary copies of the official event newsletter - The Businessman.
- A chance for your company golf day winners to qualify as a representative in a Regional Final.
- The opportunity, should they win the Regional Final, to play in The Times' "Corporate golf days" feature.
- The winner of the regional competition will be invited to participate in the World Corporate End Challenge.
- Other promotional opportunities for your golf day organisers.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is open to the 1200+ corporate offices of The Times.

A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of this application form, or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers on:

0171 436 3416 or
0141 221 2225 (Scotland),
or by fax to 0171 436 2581

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John Goodbody meets two competitors who cannot wait to get started



Only 26 miles 385 yards to go: Rosie Kennedy, the youngest girl runner, pounds across Hampstead Heath, while Walter Cayless, at 84, is training "quietly and peacefully"



GUY NEWMAN

When age is no barrier

The overwhelming popularity of the Flora London Marathon is because it is the race of the people. It attracts competitors of both sexes, and of all shapes and ages. The elite may be surging

along at the front of the field, but, at the back, the less athletic are getting equal satisfaction. Men or women, fat or thin, able-bodied or in wheelchairs, the target remains the same: completing the 26 miles 385 yards.

Age is no barrier to the determined, whether it is Rosie Kennedy, the youngest woman in the race this year, who will be 18 years and 20 days old on race day, or Walter Cayless, the oldest male competitor at almost 84.

The glory of the race on April 21 is that it encompasses adulthood.

Cayless, a retired hotelier from Newton Abbot, in Devon, will be competing in his fourth successive London Marathon. Last year, he lost his clothes. After finishing in seven hours 16 minutes, he arrived at the Novotel, in Hammersmith, only to find that the coach home had already left.

However, the hotel so admired his feat that he was introduced to everyone in the dining-room at dinner, given a room for the night and a "marvellous breakfast" and then a car back to the West Country. The marathon excites that sort of generosity.

Cayless still plays football occasionally. He manages and makes the tea for Coombe Casuals. "I am the substitute when they are a man short."

After a breakfast of corn-

keep fit class telling me: "We told you so."

For Rosie Kennedy, the marathon is a challenge that she has been looking forward to for most of her life. Ever since she saw Terry, her father, complete the race in 1982, she has been consumed by a desire to take part. "When I was young, I would see the race and then try to run the 26 miles round our back garden," she said.

She said: "The event is like a big carnival. It looks such fun and my father and I have always wanted to do it together." However, she admits that she has not found the training much of a carnival. "It is a bit different long-distance running, compared to sprinting for a bus," she said. "When I started, I could not believe how unfit I was."

At Parliament Hill School, in north London, where she is taking three A levels, she has never been particularly interested in athletics, sport or even PE. However, accompanied by her father, now 63, she has been pounding across Hampstead Heath — the undulating open spaces, beloved of generations of cross-country runners, begin at the end of her road. The headquarters of Highgate Harriers, where her father is a member, is barely a minute's jog away from their home.

The short runs are often the worst," she said. "The longer runs give me a chance to settle down." They run, father and daughter, across the heath, although he never tries to persuade her to go out for a session. "You cannot impose your discipline on someone else," Terry Kennedy said. Instead, he tells his daughter when he is running and leaves it to her whether she joins him. Usually, she does.

He said: "I play golf with my son and run with my daughter. It is a real bonding. Not many fathers have the chance to do that." He particularly enjoys it when he cannot keep up with his fleet daughter, although usually they run together.

His life has not always been so peaceful. As a member of the West Kent regiment, he escaped from Dunkirk in 1940 bailing water from a rowing boat with his tin hat. He fought at El Alamein and in Greece.

He continued working until he was nearly 80 and ran his first marathon only three years ago. "I am getting old, unfortunately," he said. "The most important thing is that I have survived the race in the past and I'm going to do it again this year."

He will represent Torquay United in the football club's challenge competition during the race. Cayless said: "My great compensation is that, if I ever collapsed in the race, I would not be here to have my

THE GREATEST TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight, Channel 4's *The Greatest* gives you the third chance in the series to vote for the greatest British sporting hero of them all. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson.

The main aim of the series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely — we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports — but *The Greatest* will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

Tonight is the fourth show in the 12-part series. The 20 sportsmen and women have been shortlisted and the cases for Jackie Stewart, Linford Christie, Bobby Moore and Tony Blair have been stated. Each week two contenders are examined and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Danny Kelly, editor of *Total Sport*, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Roy Bremner). Chairing the debate is Gordon Kennedy. The final show will give the results and declare *The Greatest*. *The Greatest* is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and repeated on Saturdays at 10am. The sporting stars under examination tonight are Mary Rand and Ian Botham. Times writers give their appreciations to help your judgments.

TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS



The zenith of athletic success is to win an Olympic gold medal by breaking a world record. Mary Rand achieved that in Tokyo in 1964, when her victory in the long jump made her the first British female athlete to take an Olympic title. Rand's eminence in British sport came not only from her ability in the long jump. She was a superb all-rounder, who finished second in the pentathlon in those Olympics, beaten only by Irina Press, the Soviet competitor, who two

years later "retired" from the sport when sex tests were introduced at the European championships. In 1964, Rand could have qualified for six different events at the Games. Her all-round ability is further shown by the fact that she was first selected internationally in the high jump and was fourth in the 80m hurdles Olympic final in 1960. However, she took part in an era when female athletics was relatively undeveloped, with most countries only giving support, encouragement and competition to men. Rand was a pioneer, someone who proved that you could combine femininity with athletic excellence and did it with great charisma. She was the greatest of the "Golden Girls". She also had the determination to overcome her disappointment of losing the 1960 Olympic long jump title and the birth of her daughter, Alison, in 1962 to produce her gold medal performance in 1964. Nor was it a fluke or one perfect jump. Four of her six efforts were her best ever.



It is easy to pick holes in Ian Botham's cricket career. It is true he rarely got into line against the fastest bowlers, took heaps of wickets with "bad balls", that he was an indifferent captain. It is true he often neglected to practise and his record against West Indies was modest (whose is not?). But judge him by what matters in sport, which is winning matches and entertaining the public, and he is hard to beat. He helped Somerset to capture the first trophies in their history (five in all) and England to win 33 Test matches and reach two World Cup finals. He played in four winning series against Australia, against whom he scored 1,673 runs and took 148 wickets. He virtually single-handedly retained the Ashes for his country in 1981 with breathtaking centuries at Headingley and Old Trafford and a spell of five wickets in 28 balls at Edgbaston when all looked lost, capturing the imagination of the public as few British sportsmen have matched. Four years later he hit a record 80 sixes in a season.

After 1988 his body increasingly felt the strain of his extraordinary endeavours but he retained his zest for the game. His age was recognisably golden even before it was over and time has only reinforced the impression. Without him, England have forgotten how to win and there is no more eloquent testimony to Botham's "magic" than that he is popularly seen as the likeliest man to restore the winning spirit to their dressing-room.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

Achievement - for honours won and overall record

Dominance - for quality of opposition, longevity and domination of peers

Style - for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image

Fortitude - for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence

Impact - charisma and transcendence

THE PRIZES

Each week, Channel 4 and *The Times* will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96, to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series, *The Greatest* (Boxtree, £14.99).

At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all - a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call *The Greatest* phoneline, on 0891 66 55 44

Lines are open from 9pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 30p cheap rate, 49p at other times.

By post: complete *The Times* entry form and send it to *The Greatest*, Week 3, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Friday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
MARY RAND	<input type="checkbox"/>					
IAN BOTHAM	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Name _____						
Address _____						
Daytime telephone _____						
Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual <i>Times</i> competition rules apply.						
<input type="checkbox"/> Tick if you prefer not to receive further information from Channel 4 or <i>The Times</i>						

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This is a hand from the 1996 BBL Premier League match, between Sowerby and Niblett.

Dealer North **North-South game** **IMPs**

+J
AJ10
QJ10 9 7 4
AQ5
K9 6 4 3
K5 4
K7 3 2
Q 10 7 5
Q 9 7 6 3
A 6
K 10

Contract: 3 NT by South

Lead: four of spades

club. If the declarer collects two diamond tricks without the king appearing, he then switches to the queen of hearts and makes the contract if West has that king.

At our table, declarer discarded a heart from dummy at trick two, and then played the ten of clubs to the queen, thus blocking the club suit. However, I came to his rescue when he led the queen of diamonds — I rose with the king, in effect playing Senior for the ace of diamonds and spades only as good as 10 9 6 4 3.

It might have been right, but it has a sniff of the unlucky expert about it. My idea was to clear spades while preserving Senior's supposed diamond entry.

□ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Maiden, Surrey, KT3 4PH.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- CARRIWITCHET**
a. A small broomstick
b. A quip
c. Instrusive coarse grass

- COLOQUINTIDA**
a. The Death's Head moth
b. A cathartic drug
c. Pidgin Spanish

Answers on page 36

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Enterprise play

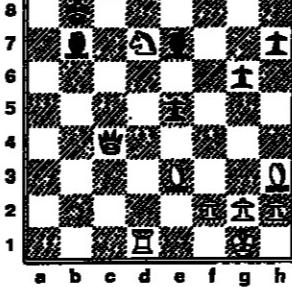
The concurrent tournaments in Amsterdam and New York continue to produce enterprising sacrificial games. In particular, the game between Lautier and Gelfand from the sixth round in Amsterdam stood out as a game where both sides offered queen sacrifices.

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Boris Gelfand
Amsterdam, March 1996

Semi-Slav Defence

1 d4 e5
2 c4 Nf6
3 Nf3 Nc6
4 e5 Nf6
5 e3 Nbd7
6 Bd3 d5
7 Bxc4 b5
8 Bc3 Bb7
9 0-0 a5
10 e4 c5
11 d5 c4
12 Be2 Qc7
13 dxe6 b6
14 Nc3 Ne5
15 Nxe5 Qe7
16 Nc6 Qd6
17 Nxd8+ Kxd8
18 Qd2+ Kd7
19 Bb5+ Kb8
20 Bc4 Qb6
21 g4 h6g4
22 Qxg4 f5
23 Nxe6+ b5
24 Qg6 Qc7
25 Qxe6 Ke8
26 Rhg1 Bxe4
27 Qg7 Kd8
28 Rxf7 Qe7
29 Rxd6+ Qd6
30 Qxd8+ Ke8
31 Qxc4 Black resigns

Diagram of final position



In Amsterdam, Kasparov and Kramnik lead with four out of seven.

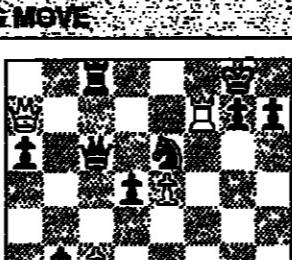
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This week, I continue my homage to Alexander Alekhine, who died 50 years ago. This position is from the game Alekhine — Bernstein, Vilna, 1911. White has lined up his major pieces in threatening fashion along the f-file and seventh rank. How did he now score a quick knockout?

Solution on page 36



- Answers on page 36**

THE
CHOOSE
GREATEST
STAR

Discovery discouraged on appeal

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Gardians and Another

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Auld

Judgment March 14

Save in exceptional cases, an applicant in judicial review proceedings was not entitled to discovery of material which was not before the court below unless there was new evidence that could not have been made available at first instance by reasonable diligence.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an application for discovery of ministerial briefing papers on appeal by Robert and Beata Gardians against the dismissal by Mr Justice Harrison on May 4, 1995 of their application for judicial review of the Home Secretary's refusal to grant them indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom outside the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (1995, HC 389).

Mr Ian MacDonald, QC and Mr Robin Spencer for the applicants; Ms Neil Garnham for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said the applicants were Polish nationals in their late twenties who had come to the UK in August 1989 to see Mrs Gardian's grandfather who had fought for the British Army in World War II. The grandfather

had suffered a stroke in October 1989 and the applicants had remained with him to look after him.

In August 1990 their application for indefinite leave to remain was refused, but they were granted exceptional leave to remain to look after the grandfather, who died in December 1990.

Following the birth of a son to Mrs Gardian in June 1991, the couple had again applied for indefinite leave. The application had been refused, but on appeal, an adjudicator had recommended that the secretary of state exercise his discretion in their favour outside the rules. However, the parliamentary under-secretary of state had decided in April 1993 that he was not satisfied the circumstances justified granting exceptional leave to remain.

The couple then applied for judicial review, and withdrew the application when the Home Office indicated it would reconsider their case. Two immigration officers had made an unannounced visit to the couple's home and both urged the minister to exercise discretion in the couple's favour.

The case was reviewed by the Minister of State, Mr Charles Wardle, who concluded that so do would undermine the government's general policy on immigration which, inter alia, was to restrict severely the numbers coming to live permanently or work in the UK. When he conducted his review, the minister had before

him a summary prepared by civil servants, but not the written minutes of the two immigration officers' recommendations.

In June 1994 the Gardians again sought judicial review. At a preliminary hearing before Mr Justice Laws they unsuccessfully sought discovery of the briefing papers that had been before the minister. Mr Justice Harrison dismissed the application for judicial review, describing the failure to put the officers' minute before the minister as reprehensible but not unfair.

On appeal, Mr MacDonald had again applied for discovery of the briefing papers, saying that without them the Gardians could not effectively challenge the decision of Mr Justice Harrison.

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Protecting rights of creditors

March Estates plc v Gunmark Ltd

Before Mr Justice Lightman Judgment March 14

Although legislation had created procedures designed to protect corporate debtors from creditors, for example, administration or disclaimer, those were not intended, by a side wind, to affect such creditors' rights against third parties who were liable to them for the debt.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in the Chancery Division, in entering a summary judgment for an account followed by payment of arrears of rent in favour of the plaintiff landlord, March Estates plc, against the defendant Gunmark Ltd, which had with licence from March assigned the residue of its term of 25 years granted in 1977 to Eldair Engineering Ltd, a company which had by June 27, 1995 become insolvent, owing £19,316 arrears of rent, and whose directors had presented a petition for an administration order under Part I of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Section 1 of the 1986 Act pro-

vides: "(1) The directors of a company... may make a proposal... to the company and to its creditors for a composition in satisfaction of its debts or a scheme of arrangement of its affairs... referred to, in either case, as a 'voluntary arrangement'."

Section 5 provides: "(2) The approved voluntary arrangement... (a) takes effect as if made by the company at the creditors' meeting, which had resolved upon a scheme of arrangement" in the form of a moratorium, as distinct from "a composition in satisfaction of the company's debts".

As shown by *Hindeastle Ltd v Barbara Atteworth Associates Ltd* (1996) 2 WLR 252 (disclaimer of a lease by a liquidator would not determine the liability under that lease, of the original lessor or of his surety).

Section 4 provides: "(3) A meeting... shall not approve any proposal... which affects the right of a secured creditor of the company to enforce his security, except with the concurrence of the creditor concerned."

Section 6 provides: "(1) ... an application to the court may be made, by [a person entitled, in accordance with the rules, to vote at a creditors' meeting] on... the ground... (a) that a

voluntary arrangement... unfairly prejudices the interest of a creditor..."

Miss Helen Galley for March:

Mr Thomas Grant for Gunmark

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that after the directors' resolution there had been a creditors' meeting, which had resolved upon a scheme of arrangement" in the form of a moratorium, as distinct from "a composition in satisfaction of the company's debts".

As shown by *Hindeastle Ltd v Barbara Atteworth Associates Ltd* (1996) 2 WLR 252 (disclaimer of a lease by a liquidator would not determine the liability under that lease, of the original lessor or of his surety).

Although a lessor's right of re-entry was not "security" in a legal sense, there had since 1986 been a consistent line of authority to the effect that for the purposes of section 4(1) of the Act, the lessor was a secured creditor in respect of his right to re-enter and forfeit the lease for a breach of covenant. That subsection was designed and apt to preserve sacrosanct the tenant's covenants, so long as they

were secured by a right of re-entry.

A voluntary arrangement might postpone, modify or extinguish a lessor's rights as a creditor of a company: non est less.

(a) that no voluntary arrangement could prejudice a lessor's right to forfeit the lease if the full rent were unpaid, was implicit in *Doorbar v Alltime Securities Ltd* (No 2) (1995) BCC 728, 739A-B; 1149, 1158F-H (Mr Justice Knox and CA):

(b) it was clear from the present facts that the scheme revealed no intention to vary the terms of the lease and even if there had been such intention, it would have been ineffective;

(c) although the scheme bound March and Gunmark, it only bound them with respect to their rights against Eldair; and

(d) there was no such release by March, of its rights against Eldair as to extinguish March's rights against Gunmark.

There was accordingly sum-

mary judgment for March, for all the rent found to be unpaid.

Solicitors: Helder Roberts & Co. Epson: Churchers, Gosport.

release but recommended his transfer to a less secure hospital.

The question was whether the Secretary of State could recall a patient under section 42(3) of the Mental Health Act 1983 to a hospital where he was already receiving treatment.

Mr Justice Hidden so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing an application for habeas corpus brought by D, a patient who had been conditionally discharged under section 42(2) of the 1983 Act, but who was, at the time of his recall by the Secretary of State, a patient under section 3 of the Act at Ashen Hill, Hellingly Hospital.

Section 42 of the Mental Health Act 1983 provides: "(1) If the secretary of state may at any time during the continuance in force of a restriction order in respect of a patient who has been conditionally discharged under subsection 2 above by warrant recall the patient to such hospital as may be specified in the warrant."

Mr Kris Gladhill for D; Mr Michael Kent for the Secretary of State; Mr Philip Engelmann for Eastbourne and County Health

Residence kept in temporary move

Camden London Borough Council v Goldenberg and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Thorpe

Judgment March 14

A temporary move to other accommodation together with a conditional intention to cease living with his grandmother, the secretant of a council flat, did not cause the grandson's residence in that flat to cease. He was entitled to succeed his grandmother as a secure tenant of the premises under sections 87 and 91(3)(c) of the Housing Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments (Lord Justice McCowan dissenting) allowing an appeal by the second defendant, Mr Adam Bloom, the grandson of the first defendant, Mrs Dorothy Goldenberg, from Judge Zuckier, QC, who, in Central London County Court in November 1994, had held in favour of the landlord, Camden London Borough Council, that Mr Bloom was a person to whom the tenancy of 9 Nalton House, Kilburn, could not be validly assigned.

Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Gammons Storrar Cowdry, Conwy; Treasury Solicitor.

house as his only or principal home at the time of the tenant's removal and either - (a) he is the tenant's spouse, or (b) he is another member of the tenant's family and has resided with the tenant throughout the period of twelve months ending with the tenant's removal. . . .

Miss Geraldine More O'Ferrall for Mr Bloom, Mr Christopher Walker for the council; Mrs Goldenberg did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE said that Mr Bloom, returning from Israel in 1991, went to live with his grandmother, the secure tenant of the one-bedded flat. In February 1992 he married and left the flat, going with his wife to "house sit" for friends who were abroad. It was their intention to move to other independent accommodation if it could be found.

But the opportunity arose and when the friends went back to his grandmother's flat, his wife, a student, having to go elsewhere. In November 1992 the grandmother moved into a nursing home, assigning her tenancy of the flat to Mr Bloom.

The question was whether Mr Bloom had resided with his grandmother throughout the period of twelve months ending in November 1992. Miss More O'Ferrall argued that the judge was wrong to hold that he had not, having failed to consider the important issues of whether Mr Bloom had remained in occupation of the flat despite his absence on what he described as a pseudo-honeymoon and also whether he had had the intention to return to the flat.

The combination of the "house sit", it was said, together with the intention to move to other accommodation if it could be found, was insufficient to interrupt Mr Bloom's residence with his grandmother.

A period of absence did not necessarily break continuity of residence. In determining whether or not the defendant had had the intention to move to other independent accommodation if it could be found,

the judge had held that Mr Bloom had failed to discharge the burden of proving that he was residing with his grandmother at the relevant time. That decision could not properly be inferred with.

Moreover, the facts supported the judge's conclusion that there had been a break in the continuity of Mr Bloom's residence with his grandmother.

Lord Justice Nourse gave a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Thorpe.

Solicitors: Fisher Meredith, Clapham; Miss Amanda Kelly, Camden.

carrying out that intention? Was it expectation or mere hope?

The reality was that it was a distant prospect sufficient only to qualify and not to dispense the intention to return. It had to be characterised as an intention to return unless something unexpected turned up. Such a qualification of the intention to return did not justify the conclusion to which the judge came.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN, dissenting, said that Mr Bloom's intention to return to Nalton House could be characterised as an intention not to return if he succeeded in finding accommodation where he and his wife could live together.

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Solicitors: Fisher Meredith, Clapham; Miss Amanda Kelly, Camden.

wider than those under section 3 of the Act which appeared in Part II and dealt with compulsory admission to hospital and guardianship in non-criminal cases.

In his Lordship's judgment, the word "recall" meant "order to return, call back, permanently or temporarily" and there was nothing preventing the issue of such an order to a person who was in fact present at the relevant hospital but without there being in existence any section 41 order in relation to that hospital.

However, if that were not the natural and ordinary meaning of the words, it would be necessary to apply the presumption favouring purposive construction.

Reduced to its basics, Mr Gladhill's argument would have the result that the only hospital which could not be named by the Secretary of State in his section 42(3) warrant would be the one hospital with which the patient had had the closest recent contact and where there were the medical and nursing staff who had most knowledge of him and also where he happened to be.

His Lordship found that result so absurd that Parliament could not have intended it.

Solicitors: Steel & Shrimpton, Treasury Solicitor: Dominic Milner, Huddock, Brighton.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Chartwell International Group, Frogmore Estates. **Finals:** Automotive Products, Burmah Castrol, Cavendish Group, Highland Distilleries, IBC Group, Innovative Technologies, London and Manchester Group, Macallan-Glenlivet, Redane Group, Reunited Mining, Sharpe & Fisher, Tarmac, Ulster TV.

Economic statistics: UK March purchasing managers' index, UK February M0 money supply, US March NAPM survey, US February construction spending.

TOMORROW

Interims: James Halstead, Highland Distilleries, Innovations Group, Old Mutual South Africa Trust, Pascoe's Group. **Finals:** Brooks Service Group, Chelsfield, CLS Holdings, Clydesdale, Dagenham Motors Group, Focal Properties, GBE International, Gowings JBA Holdings, Kynoch Group, Oasis Stores, Scholl, Tarmac, Trafficleader, Walker Greenbank, Waterford Wedgwood, Watts, Blake, Beare and Co, Yorkde.

Economic statistics: UK February official reserves, US Q4 final GDP, US February leading indicators.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Lyons Irish Holdings, McKechnie. **Finals:** Aegis Group, Altec Converting Equipment, Blockleys, British Dredging, BWI, Chelstow Racecourse, City Centre Restaurants, Denistron International, Goldsmiths Group, Hewden Stuart, Laird Group, Princedale Group, Rugby Estates, United Industries Vymara. **Economic statistics:** UK monthly monetary meeting, US February factory orders, German March unemployment.

THURSDAY

Interims: London and St Lawrence Investment Company. **Finals:** Ben Bailey Construction, Bilton, First Russian Frontiers Trust, Friendly Hotels, Home Counties Newspapers Holdings, Alfred McAlpine, Martin International Holdings, UK Safety. **Economic statistics:** UK February housing starts and completions, Bank of France monetary policy meeting, US weekly jobless claims, US February housing completions.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Burmah Castrol runs smoothly

BURMAH CASTROL: The long-time takeover favourite Burmah Castrol is due to unveil impressive full-year figures today. These are expected to show net profit after tax and exceptional costs, climbing from £114 million to £129 million. Bruce Evers, oil analyst with Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, expects the main thrust of the improvement to come from the group's involvement in emerging countries.

The star performance will come from Castrol India, its 51 per cent owned subsidiary, which continues to enjoy strong growth, but positive performances will also come from places such as Thailand and Vietnam. "The resurgence in some of these economies has been phenomenal," Mr Evers says.

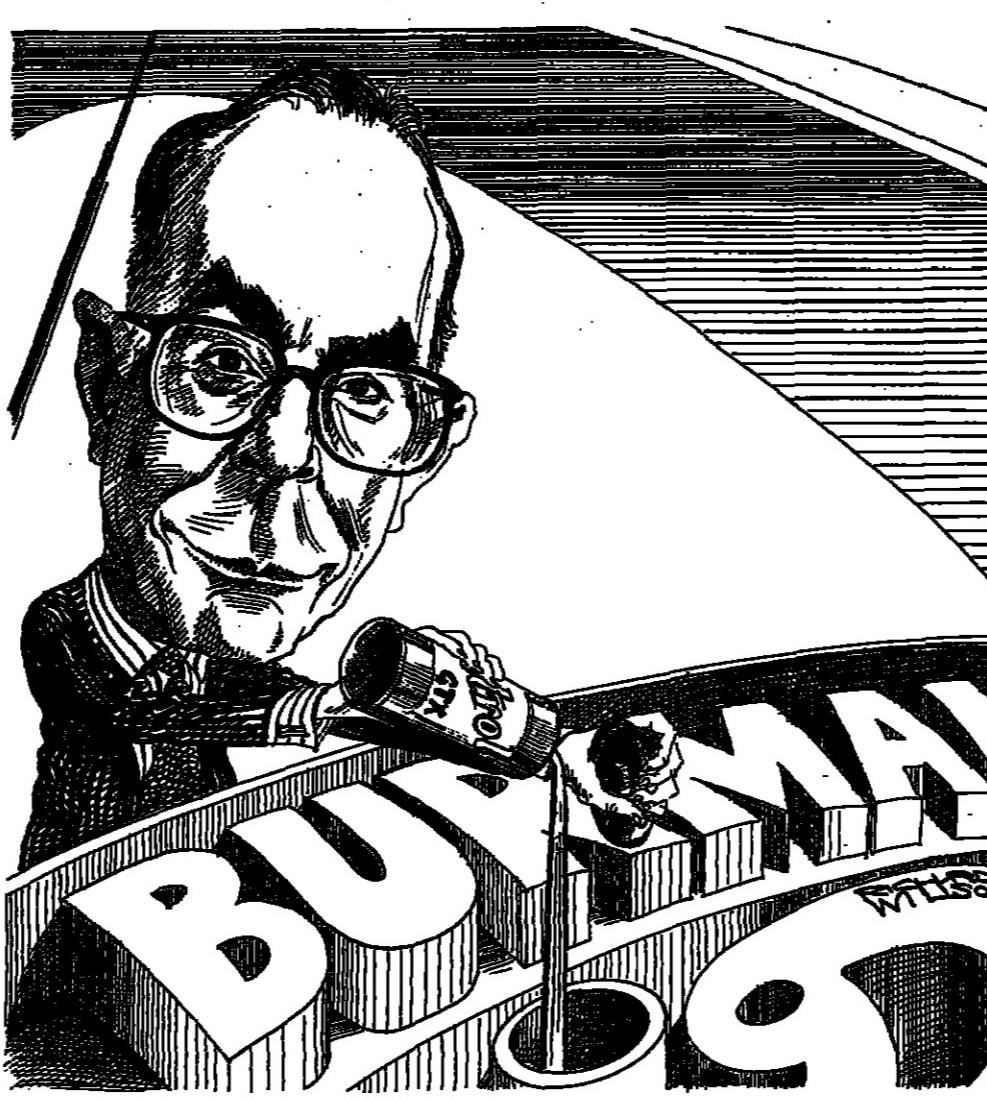
But the group's performance in the US is likely to have been mixed. The industrial side should have enjoyed a reasonable performance, but on the consumer side, conditions have been unsettled.

Europe will have been weak compared with the rest of the group, while Poco will have benefited from a strong first-half performance. Fuels are expected to be down 15 per cent year-on-year, with a positive first-half performance being outweighed by the cost of restructuring later in the year.

TARMAC: It was a busy time for Tarmac as it repositioned itself in the construction market with the exchange of assets with Wimpey, one of its rivals. As a result, full-year figures out tomorrow are unlikely to make pleasant reading for shareholders. NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting a fall in pre-tax profit to about £95 million, compared with £107.2 million in 1994.

One of the drawbacks of its restructuring programme has been greater exposure to the road construction industry, in which conditions are described as bleak, at best. In spite of the profits shortfall, it looks as if the dividend will be pegged at 5.5p.

HEWDEN STUART: After cautious comments about the plant hire industry at the halfway stage, it looks as if conditions may have deteriorated further since then. Even so, the group



Jonathan Fry, chief executive, is expected to report an impressive set of full-year figures

should be able to achieve a small improvement for the year when it reports on Wednesday, with the poor weather and flooding in January providing a boost to demand for driers and general tool hire for repair work.

Brokers have pencilled in a figure of about £65.5 million, against £54.8 million last time. It should allow scope for a modest increase on the dividend, with 3p being forecast against 2.7p.

LAIRD GROUP: The group is expected to have continued to benefit from its recent acquisition programme when full-year figures are announced on Wednesday.

day. Brokers forecast a rise in pre-tax profits from last year's £45 million to about £70 million after a 57 per cent leap in the first half to £37.5 million. The range is £68 million to £75 million.

A strong all-round performance is expected, with both the automobile and non-automotive parts of its business performing strongly. Vehicle-related sales should be 27 per cent ahead compared with an 8 per cent increase for the industry generally.

It will have been helped in no small part by a full first-time contribution from Draftex, its recent acquisition in Spain. Fullerton, Laird's computer-

related operation in the US, will have recovered from start-up costs in the third quarter relating to its phase one plant in the US serving IBM and Compaq. The only weak link will be building materials where the performance will have been affected by the gloomy backdrop to the industry generally.

HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES: In an effort to revive its fortunes in a depressed drinks industry, the group this year launched its own brand of gin and even held talks with Remy Cointreau in an effort to bolster overseas sales. It is unlikely that these ventures

will have any impact on interim figures expected from the group tomorrow. But it will be trying hard to make up for last year's disappointing performance.

Once again, any improvement in profits is likely to stem from sales of Famous Grouse, its Scotch whisky, which is estimated to account for about 50 per cent of the group's profits in this country and as much as 70 per cent worldwide.

A small increase in pre-tax profit has been pencilled in this time, with brokers forecasting £24.5 million, against £23.7 million for the corresponding period. The drinks market remains depressed. Sales are sluggish, although the picture is slightly brighter for the group overseas.

MACALLAN GLENLIVET: It is likely to be a similar story for Macallan Glenlivet when it unveils full-year figures today. The drinks market remains difficult, at whichever end a company happens to be operating. This will be clearly revealed in Macallan's figures, which are expected to show a rise in pre-tax profits of less than £1 million to £7.58 million. However, according to NatWest Securities, shareholders can comfort themselves with a 15 per cent increase in the total dividend to 1.4p.

LONDON & MANCHESTER: A change in accounting rules are expected to complicate full-year figures from the life insurer today. Pre-tax profits are expected to show a rise of £2.1 million to £41 million, but earnings will show a decline from 20.6p to 19.7p. The underlying trend is likely to reveal a slowdown in life profits growth. A 9 per cent increase in the dividend to 18.7p is likely to be achieved by a reduction in cover.

UNITED FRIENDLY: These figures are also likely to be clouded by those changes to accounting rules and the payment of special bonuses. But mixed trading conditions are likely to see pre-tax profits down from £47.6 million to about £42 million when the group reports tomorrow. The consolation for shareholders will be a 20 per cent rise in the dividend to 24p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Jobs under the spotlight

With few major statistics due to be published in Britain and the monthly monetary meeting on Wednesday expected to leave UK interest rates unchanged, this week's focus will be on France, where the Group of Seven industrialised nations meet for a jobs summit, and America, where the latest employment figures are eagerly awaited.

The jobs summit takes place in Lille today against a background of, as John Sheppard of Yamachi International Europe puts it, "slowing or outright depressed levels of manufacturing activity in most of the major European economies". February figures for German industrial production, due to be released today, are expected to show a fall in manufacturing output of 1.4 per cent. Also out today is Britain's purchasing managers' index, which has been suggesting that manufacturing is stagnant. Against this, some economists say a small cut in French interest rates is possible after the Bank of France's council meeting on Thursday.

Many American statistics are published this week, all of which will be closely examined given the current confusion about the state of the US recovery. The US purchasing managers' survey for March is published today, to be followed tomorrow by the final figures for fourth-quarter gross domestic product and February leading indicators, with personal spending and income for February to come on Wednesday.

But the most important figure of the week will be Friday's non-farm payrolls for March. The February figures caught the financial markets by surprise. Wall Street had been looking for a bounce-back in employment, but the rise was at least twice as big as expected. Now, the markets are waiting to see if that February figure is revised and whether a weaker number emerges for March.

Other British releases this week are M0 narrow money supply today, reports on house prices from the Halifax and Nationwide building societies, official reserves and housing starts.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Aegis, Alfred McAlpine and Princedale. Avoid Hodder Headline, Hold Next. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Boxmoor International. Hold Monument Oil & Gas. **Independent on Sunday:** Buy National Power and PowerGen and Enterprise Oil. Avoid P&O. Sell Wm Morrison. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Burmah Castrol, Crestacare and Tarmac.

GILT-EDGED

Debt is the worry, not inflation

This economic cycle is different. The British economy has been recovering for more than three years, but inflation is still low. Even the normally cautious Bank of England expects it to stay low. In spite of this, there are misplaced fears that recovery will trigger inflation. Some people are even making comparisons with the credit boom of the 1980s. The 1980s might be more appropriate. Then, the world economy was undergoing structural change, with commodity prices and inflation falling, triggering severe economic dislocation, as newly industrialised economies caught up.

Now it is the turn of South-East Asia to catch up. Western companies have to restructure. This has brought low inflation in the 1990s, and this will continue. British firms are working existing employees and capacity more efficiently. Productivity has risen. Unit labour costs remain subdued. Even though skilled workers' pay may rise, global disinflationary pressures and corporate downsizing will cap wage pressure.

There are some risks. The biggest is the lack of previous investment, because it could trigger inflation bottlenecks. Higher productivity should

lessen this risk. Also, rising imports and a deteriorating trade deficit may act as a safety valve for inflation pressures.

Firms' past reluctance to invest means that even an improving rate of return on capital in business may not trigger the investment it should.

Low inflation contributed to a strong rise in real personal disposable income last year. Along with subsequent policy easing, this should allow steady consumer spending. However, sluggish wages and

ing when they win. Will policy lead the UK to buck the international trend of low inflation?

I do not think the risks in the UK are higher than elsewhere.

If investors are to worry, it should be about debt. In the new fiscal year, the Government plans to issue £32.6 billion in gilts, taking into account £1.4 billion maturing gilts as well as new issuance. This is sizeable, but, judging from recent years, the outcome could be higher.

For international bond markets, inflation is not the problem. Debt is. Debt-to-GDP ratios have continued to rise in the industrialised world, as pension and health costs have increased. High structural unemployment has added to the problem on the Continent, and the Government's inability to control general expenditure has worsened matters here. Fortunately the UK's medium-term debt outlook does not look so bad, but investors may need to be convinced that an incoming Labour government could control spending. In view of these debt worries, the yield curve may remain steep, even though inflation will stay low.

Investors may need to be convinced that a Labour government could control spending.

job insecurity will ensure that the rebound in spending is at a moderate, not unsustainably pace. Consumers still expect value for money, and this will cap inflation pressure.

Falling inflation can accompany steady economic growth.

The retail price equation in the Treasury's economic model shows significantly less inflation pressure in the last four years than the model would have expected. I expect this trend to continue, with underlying retail price inflation falling

from 2.9 per cent last year to 2.4 per cent this year and only 2 per cent in 1997.

This should hardly worry gilt investors. Low inflation should let the Chancellor cut rates again, particularly if rates on the Continent fall. I expect base rates to fall to 5.5 per cent by late summer, although the Chancellor may take a neutral stance in the next two months, as he assesses the pace of recovery.

Although sterling may weaken in the immediate approach to an election, its down-

ing when they win. Will policy lead the UK to buck the international trend of low inflation?

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side against the mark should be limited, partly because the recent devaluation has been followed by competitive gains, and not inflation. This calls into question the pessimism being built into the gilt market, where ten-year yields are 1.8 per cent above those on comparable German bonds.

This risk premium is too high. It reflects concerns that British inflation is about to soar, either by the Chancellor easing policy too much before the election or by Labour refla-

ting when they win. Will policy lead the UK to buck the international trend of low inflation?

I do not think the risks in the UK are higher than elsewhere.

If investors are to worry, it should be about debt. In the new fiscal year, the Government plans to issue £32.6 billion in gilts, taking into account £1.4 billion maturing gilts as well as new issuance. This is sizeable, but, judging from recent years, the outcome could be higher.

For international bond markets, inflation is not the problem. Debt is. Debt-to-GDP ratios have continued to rise in the industrialised world, as pension and health costs have increased. High structural unemployment has added to the problem on the Continent, and the Government's inability to control general expenditure has worsened matters here. Fortunately the UK's medium-term debt outlook does not look so bad, but investors may need to be convinced that an incoming Labour government could control spending. In view of these debt worries, the yield curve may remain steep, even though inflation will stay low.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FRIENDS PROVIDENT

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 163rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of FRIENDS PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE will be held at GLAZIERE HALL, 9 MONTAGUE CLOSE, LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON, SE1, on WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 1996 at 2.30 p.m. to transact the following business:-

1 To receive the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 1995 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.

2 To re-elect 4 Directors of the Office who retire by rotation;

Keith Satchell
John Whitney

3 To elect as a Director of the Office Peter Jones who has been appointed since the last Annual General Meeting.

4 To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as the auditors to the Office and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

By Order of the Directors,
B.W. Sweetland,
Secretary.

1st April 1996

Friends' Provident Life Office,
Pitkham End, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QA

GERARD LYONS
DKB International

NOTE S

(a) A Member is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Member) to attend the above meeting and vote instead of him.

(b) To valid the instrument appointing a proxy, which should be as near to the form set out in rule 30 of the Rules of the Office as circumstances admit, and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority, must be deposited at Pitkham End, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA, not less than forty-eight hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting, or adjourned meeting, or, in the case of a poll, not less than twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll.

(c) Proxy forms may be obtained on application to the Secretary.

(d) Members intending to attend and vote personally at the meeting should be prepared to quote their policy numbers.

(e) Only Members are entitled to vote. Certain policyholders are not Members. If a policyholder who is not also a Member completes and returns a form of proxy, it will not be counted.

(f) Members have one vote each irrespective of the number of policies held.

(g) Members are entitled, on application to the Secretary, to receive a copy of the Report and Accounts.

LEGAL NOTICES

TD GOLDING JOHN REYNOLD

Panther to pounce on Elys results

The hostile bid by Panther Securities for Elys, the department store group, will become more heated this week when Panther sends a strongly worded letter to Elys shareholders condemning the group's annual results. Andrew Perloff, Panther chairman, will tell shareholders that the group had a "disastrous" trading year in 1995.

Housing hope

The housing market is set for a modest recovery, according to National Westminster. David Kern, chief economist, is forecasting a 2 per cent rise in house prices in 1996.

Pay deals steady

Pay settlements are continuing to hold steady, rising at 3.5 per cent, according to Industrial Relations Services, the independent pay research company.

Wetherall issue

Wetherall, the UK manufacturer of reversible women's coats, skirts and jackets, is raising £340,000 through the issue of 1.7 million shares at 20p each.

Richard Thomson on the first criminal charges against the tobacco industry

Smoking out the 'evil empire'

BROWN & WILLIAMSON, the US tobacco subsidiary of BAT Industries, will this week face the first criminal charges ever brought against the tobacco industry by the US Justice Department when several employees are expected to be indicted for smuggling.

The indictment will represent a further blow to the company which is already locked in a legal battle with a former employee who has accused it of lying about the addictiveness of nicotine in cigarettes. It will also be another setback for the entire tobacco industry that is still reeling from the recent decision by Liggett Group to settle two legal actions, the first time a tobacco company has done so.

Federal officials have stated that they are seeking an indictment against Brown & Williamson employees from a grand jury in New Orleans on charges that they obtained cigarettes from international sources and subsequently had them smuggled into Canada to avoid the country's high taxes.

This is the first of five federal grand jury investigations into the tobacco industry to reach an indictment. Other investigations involve whether



Come to where the lawsuits are: Philip Morris, the Marlboro combine, faces 125 actions

tobacco executives lied during Congressional testimony in 1994, whether tobacco companies engaged in securities fraud violations and whether the industry concealed research into the health risk of cigarettes. Brown & Williamson, the third largest cigarette

company in the US, is involved in most of these investigations. Evidence in respect of the smuggling charge came from a raid by federal agents on the company's headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky, last year.

Further legal pressure on

the tobacco industry last week came from the state government of Texas via a \$4 billion lawsuit to recover healthcare costs of smokers. Launching the suit, Dan Morales, Texas attorney-general, called the tobacco industry an "evil empire". His suit joins those from

six other states claiming back the cost of looking after people made sick as a result of smoking. It accuses the industry of systematic fraud and racketeering since the 1950s by withholding facts about the dangers of smoking and enticing people to smoke.

The tobacco industry was thrown into confusion two weeks ago when Liggett agreed to settle two big lawsuits in a move that broke an agreement within the industry to fight all legal challenges brought against it. The tobacco industry feared that a settlement would set a precedent that would open the floodgates to a spate of new court actions. Such fears appear well-founded and other states are expected to follow the Texan lead.

Philip Morris, the Marlboro tobacco combine, has vowed to fight all charges brought against it. The company and its subsidiaries face 125 lawsuits alleging tobacco-related illnesses. Cases are also pending against its Canadian and Brazilian subsidiaries. Against this background, investment managers are becoming increasingly bearish towards tobacco shares.

Sporty hero for the B&B

CHRISTOPHER Rodrigues, otherwise the "Outsider" or the "Quiet American", who is to take over as chief executive of the Bradford & Bingley in June, is causing almost as big a stir in building society circles as talk of conversion.

At Thomas Cook, where he worked for eight years, Rodrigues, a US-educated Briton, was rated a swash-buckling hero. The sports fanatic took two weeks off each year to coach the Cambridge rowing team and spent weekends in the Cotswolds perfecting the role of country gent. "He's very gung-ho and has boundless energy," gushes a Thomas Cook insider. "Every Friday, he'd walk through the door on Berkeley Street with at least two guns on one shoulder and a rod on the other."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

or through provincial Cooker Centres. The Aga was invented in 1922 by a blind Swedish physicist, and the publishers expect its devotees to ensure that the glossy quarterly, costing £15 a year, hits 120,000 circulation by harvest time.

Sting in the tail

DETAILS emerge of revelry behind the £18 million joint venture of Grand Metropolitan, the drinks group, and Quifa, the state-owned Chinese distillery. Expatriates from GrandMet's International Distillers and Vintners visiting Shandong Province were obliged to join in a local ritual of knocking back a dozen glasses of local Confucius Family Liquor to wash down a plate... of scorpions.

Number one

ROBERT Smith's election as president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland should shake things up. Smith is not a partner in a big accountancy firm. As chief accountant of Morgan Grenfell development capital, he is more noted for streetwise deals. While with Charterhouse merchant bank, he dubbed his team "animals with hairy chests". More bravesthan accountant, perhaps.

MORAG PRESTON

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

CARRIWITCHET

(b) A pun, quibble: a hoaxing question or conundrum. Derivation unknown. Dr Fitzgerald Hall asks: "Can it be a corruption of the French *cotificher*?" Who can tell. Fitzgerald? Walter Scott Nigel, 1822: "Mortally wounded with a quibble or a carriwitchet at the Mermaid."

COLOQUINTIDA

(b) The colocynth or bitter-apple (*Citrullus colocynthus*), a widely-cultivated plant of the Gourd family, the fruit of which is about the size of an orange, and contains a light spongy and extremely bitter pulp, furnishing the well-known purgative drug. J. C. Powys's *A Glastonbury Romance*: "Hours sweet as honey and hours bitter as colocynthia had slid down the same fatal slope into everlasting oblivion."

CETE

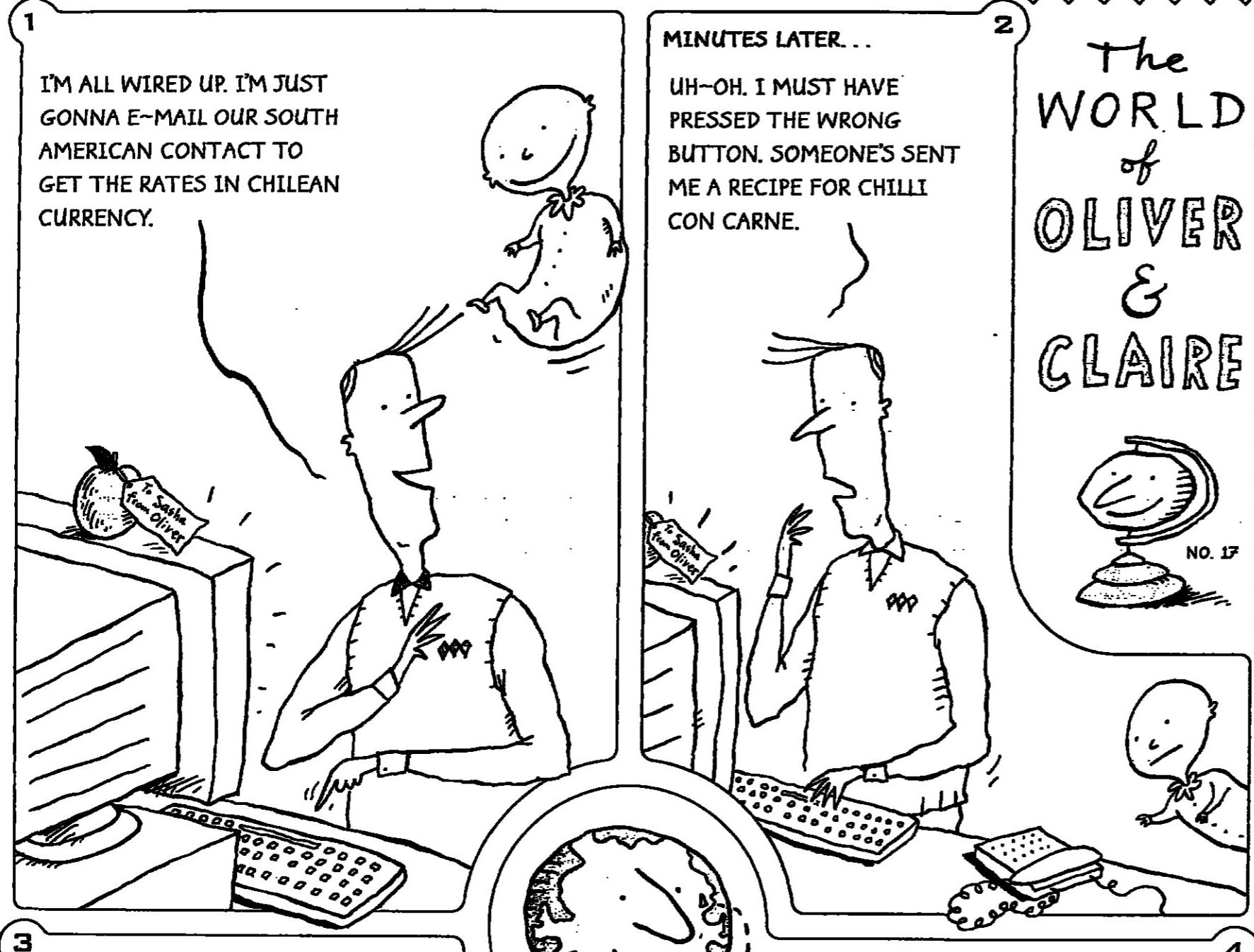
(b) A company of badgers. Possibly an adaptation of the Latin *cetus*, in medieval spelling *cetus*, meeting, assembly, company. "Keeping what the old writers used to call a cete of badgers."

JONGLEUR

(a) The Norman French term (technically used by modern writers) for an itinerant minstrel, who sang and composed ballads, told stories, and otherwise entertained people. By confusion with *joculator*, altered to juggler. Bulwer Lytton, *Rienzi*, 1835: "A minstrel or jongleur, with a small stule stung round him, was making his way through the throng."

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Here is the latest political promise to privatised business. "There is no question of existing contracts being cancelled against the wishes of the parties to them." Actually, this is not the latest message. It came on Friday when Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, cheerfully ran over Labour's previous policy and loyalty waved the green flag for next month's sale of Railtrack. Labour will do anything to appear responsible and that usually means pledging to do as little as possible.

The very latest message came from John Major on Saturday and is scheduled to be followed up today by John Gummer, who often has to grit his teeth as firmly as Clare Short is learning to do. He will tell water consumers, and more than a million of us who own shares in water companies, that the Government plans to tear up the 25-year licences it issued just before privatisation in 1989. Instead, it will promote the sort of "new era" of competition that has already done so much to multiply complaints against British Gas.

The Prime Minister has different political priorities. He is desperate for radical new initiatives. Last year he promised nuclear privatisation. This spring, he aims to neutralise Labour's free hits against water privatisation with a regime to curb the fat cats. At this stage, it is only safe to predict that more jobs will be lost and boardroom pay will rise steeply as companies rush to recruit expensive outsiders to redraw their

Water, water everywhere, but not much competition

strategies. There, I fancy, similarities to gas and power will end. In theory, there is already scope for competition in water, recently expanded. But it has not had much impact because would-be rivals have to supply through their own pipes. Competition has therefore been limited to supplying new housing estates on borders between companies or big new industrial plants such as Toyota's.

One reason is that water is not uniform like electricity. Bills have been spent since 1989 to bring supplies up to proper standards of purity. That task is now largely complete but maintaining pure water requires eternal vigilance.

If water is deemed to be commodity, it could be delivered via other people's pipes, just as BT, British Gas and regional electricity companies have to act as a common carrier for competitors. No company would have any incentive to improve water quality standards above the minimum statutory limit. But there should be little argument over non-potable water for industry.

The second bar to competition is that there is no national water grid. Thames can now move water all



GRAHAM SCARJEANT

round London. Companies in dry parts of the country avoid supply problems thanks to schemes to move supplies around their regions. But Bradford could not use supplies available from Kielder Water in Northumbria. Still less could "cheap water" from Kielder, or from Welsh valleys, be piped to customers suffering high bills and strained supplies in the South West.

Constructing a national bulk pipeline grid would cost billions which neither customers nor water companies would care to fund. Using river systems would be a commercial and accounting nonsense. So competition would still be between

neighbours, prepared to risk building a link to next door's network.

Benefits to all but the biggest customers are therefore likely to be slim. To start with, most of the average household bill is for sewage, where investment is building up again to satisfy EU requirements, and has to be paid for. No competition there. The cost of local distribution is also a far greater proportion of the price of water than of gas or electricity. They would still be monopoly common carriers, whose charges would reflect local costs.

Customers would complain bitterly if hosepipes were banned when their company was supplying water elsewhere. And now new reservoirs would be built without guarantees. It would still be more economic for Yorkshire Water to build a pipeline up to Kielder than for Northumbrian to build one down.

In the short run, water investors may have relatively little to fear from the presently slim political risk of the Government being re-elected. The average customer has even less to gain. Rather, the threat of change is likely to accelerate takeovers, as in electricity.

Further ahead, this lack of impact could provoke a future Tory government to take more extreme measures to force competitive supply. If the water regulator is given a statutory duty to promote competition, reform could eventually follow the same destructive path as in gas.

Tom Walker and Eric Reguly look into the courtship of BT and Cable and Wireless

On the road to a rocky marriage?

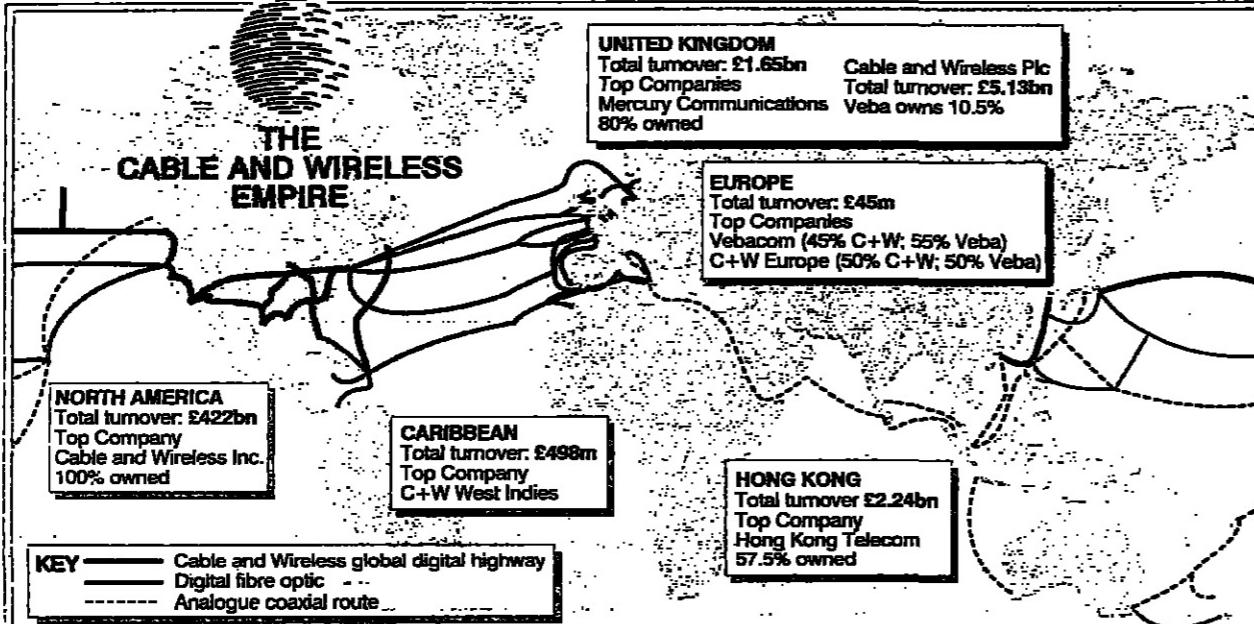
Cable and Wireless and British Telecom are courting each other again, but do not expect to see a fast marriage. The romance has just begun and it will take some time before each feels comfortable enough to take the leap.

The companies are saying privately that, given the enormous complexities of combining operations, joint ventures and alliances in some 50 countries, an agreement in principle may not be reached for months.

Assuming that AT&T, or any other phone giant with international ambitions, do not spoil their plans, it is possible that the merger will not reach completion within the year. At that stage, another problem will begin to present itself. Hong Kong will be on the verge of coming under Chinese rule, clouding the future of Hong Kong Telecom.

The company, which is 57.5 per cent owned by C&W, is the driving force behind BT's pursuit of C&W. Hong Kong Telecom sits on the doorstep of the world's biggest potential market: if it were not in C&W's portfolio, the idea of joining forces with C&W would not even occur to BT.

Analysts are becoming increasingly concerned over the future of Hong Kong Telecom, without which C&W would be virtually moribund. Last year, it accounted for two-thirds of



C&W's operating profits of £1.2 billion. In the light of China's switchiness over Taiwan and Peking's mounting rhetoric against Western interference, observers of the company are tending towards gloomier forecasts.

Negative speculation about Hong Kong Telecom could, at worst, cause BT to drop the idea of merging with C&W. Certainly, it would convince BT to value C&W shares at a lower level than C&W is seeking. A British diplomat asked: "Will it be possible after 1997 for a

telecoms outfit with its roots in the UK to be the prime supplier in Hong Kong?"

Hong Kong Telecom's monopoly on the Hong Kong domestic market has been taken away already. From next year it will be competing with Wharf's new T&T, Hutchison Telecom, which owns half of Britain's Orange mobile phone network, and New World Telephone in the territory. Brokers on the Hong Kong market are blaming fluctuations in the company's shares on concern over its

ability to compete. International calls, however, account for 60 per cent of Hong Kong Telecom's revenues and it will have exclusive rights to this franchise until 2006 if the Chinese authorities do not interfere. Since 40 per cent of international direct dialling income comes from calls to China, there is mounting speculation that Peking might do just that. The British diplomat said: "There is a great deal of ignorance over how China will operate here."

Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, last week worried aloud that China was fully prepared to "tear out the roots of democracy" in the territory and substitute its own tried and trusted methods. This sense of fear is now affecting the market place, and even the portfolio column of the *South China Morning Post* is warning of the perils of holding Hong Kong Telecom stock.

Earlier this month, Citic, one of the big "red chip" Chinese-controlled holding companies operating in Hong Kong, ominously sold 203 million shares in Hong Kong Telecom, reducing its stake to just over 10 per cent and raising £270 million. The *South China Morning Post* said: "We don't compliment the investors who took the Telecom shares off Citic's hands. We view Telecom as a dead investment because of changes in the local and international telecommunications scene."

Analysts are now asking the obvious question: if major Chinese interests are getting out of Hong Kong, why does BT want to get in? In an ideal world of respect for the Basic Law, Hong Kong Telecom should be in a good position to make vast and profitable inroads into the Chinese fixed and mobile phone markets. But in Hong Kong these days it is difficult to find believers in this post-1997 scenario. The company itself is putting on a brave face, preferring to concentrate on analysts' predictions that this year, at least, its profits should grow by about 15 per cent. At last year's annual meeting — which lasted ten minutes — not one shareholder asked a question of Lord Young of Graffham, then Hong Kong Telecom's chairman, about the company's future. And around the same time *Asian Business* magazine voted Hong Kong Telecom the most admired company in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong

Telecom is attempting to slim its workforce of 14,000, the third largest in Hong Kong. Senior executives, some of whom earn more than a million Hong Kong dollars per year (£90,000) are being offered cash-heavy redundancy packages. In all, 2,500 jobs should be cut over the next three years.

Judging Hong Kong Telecom's future is just one of the problems surrounding the merger of C&W and BT. Another is convincing the 50 or so countries in which C&W operates that the merger would not constitute a change in ownership.

The governments of these countries have the right to revoke the C&W operating licences and auction them if control changes.

That is one of the main reasons C&W and BT are pursuing the idea of a reverse takeover, in which C&W would become the technical owner of the much larger BT, instead of the other way around.

C&W could then make the argument that the company, and therefore its operating licences, have remained intact. Whether the authorities in Sierra Leone and Diego Garcia will buy this line of thinking is open to question.

Another advantage of a reverse takeover is that it would save BT several billion pounds. If BT acquires C&W, it would be forced under the rules of the Hong Kong stock exchange to buy out the minority shareholders of Hong Kong Telecom. If C&W acquires BT, there would be no such obligation.

Back in Britain, the hurdles loom less large but will nonetheless take a lot of management time to sort out. C&W would have to sell its 80 per cent stake in Mercury Communications, BT's main competitor, before the merger would be allowed to proceed. C&W would also have to unload its half interest in Mercury One-2-One, the mobile phone company, because BT owns 60 per cent of Cellnet, its rival. Analysts say that the C&W/Mercury stake is worth about £1.5 billion. Potential buyers include Bell Canada International, which owns the remaining 20 per cent. AT&T, which has been looking for a way to make a splash in the British market, or any of the big European telephone companies with plans to create a pan-European phone network.

Britain's cable companies would be candidates too. Combining them with Mercury would create an operation with both national and residential coverage — in effect a small version of BT. Investors will have to have patience. In the long term, C&W and BT together will be a formidable force. In the short term, however, things look messy.

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Budget Account	1.50	19.5
Unauthorised**	2.00	26.8

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Professional Studies Loan Scheme	0.70	8.7
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Gross % Net %	Gross % Net %	Gross % Net %
£100,000+ 5.25	3.94	3.13
£50,000+ 5.00	3.75	2.89
£25,000+ 4.65	3.49	2.55
£10,000+ 4.35	3.19	2.17
Below £10,000 0.50	0.38	0.50

Treasurers Account	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.25	2.29
£10,000+	3.05	2.29
£ 5,000+	2.60	1.95
£ 500+ 2.40	1.80	1.33
Below £500 1.00	0.75	0.75

Headway and Young Savers	Gross %	Net %
£500+ 2.40	1.80	1.33
£250+ 2.25	1.69	1.23
£100+ 2.00	1.50	1.13
£ 50+ 1.50	1.00	0.75

Asset Management Service Investment Account	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+ 5.13	3.85	3.85
£ 50,000+ 4.89	3.67	3.67
£ 25,000+ 4.55	3.41	3.41
£ 10,000+ 4.17	2.97	2.97
Below £10,000 2.37	1.78	1.78

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Deposit Account	Half-yearly Option	Monthly Option
Gross % Net %	Gross % Net %	Gross % Net %
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Below £1 0.19	0.19	0.19

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice lists current rates.

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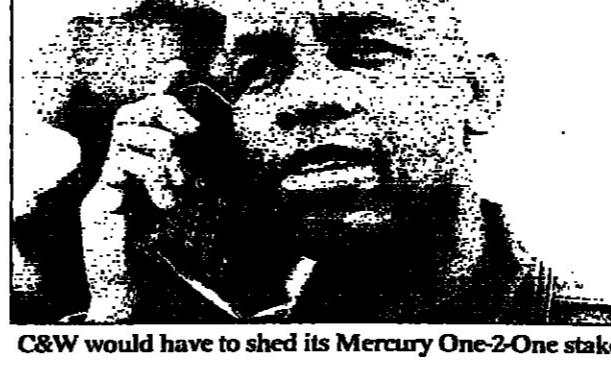
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High jinks and low comedy in the Highlands

If someone one day tells Hamish Macbeth that his job as village bobbie is safe until Birnam Wood knocks on the door of the police house at Lochdubh... well, I shan't be the slightest bit surprised. There are some very strange people in Lochdubh.

In fact, if a couple of hundred Caledonian pines are going to hitch up their roots and start walking anywhere, it will be Lochdubh. But not yet awhile. Birnam Wood is staying put and PC Macbeth can sleep some more. For in the battle of the glens that Sunday night has suddenly become Hamish Macbeth (BBC1) should put the odd alliance of the Finlays and Camerons in Dr Finlay (ITV) to flight quicker than you can say "clan uprising".

This will be only unfair, because *Dr Finlay* is excellent television — well acted and skilfully directed — but it is no match for the inhabitants of Lochdubh. *Hamish Mac-*

beth, you see, has a not very secret weapon: sex. Last night, for instance, it was either Dr Cameron (Ian Bannen) in his combinations (actually, he was out of them but it's a long story) or the fair Alex (Valerie Gogan) in her scalloped-semitut and drawers. The choice, as they say, was yours.

Mine was *Hamish Macbeth*, where it wasn't just the police house that was a-pulsing with passion. Given the early hour at which the programme is shown, much of this passion is, of necessity, tastefully sublimated but the intention must have been clear to anyone who saw Esme (Anne Lacey) tempt Rory (Brian Pettifer) with a "nice... slow... three-minute... poached egg".

In the village pub, things were similarly torrid and calorie-packed. Agnes (Barbara Rafferty), depressed by the news that her husband was "firing blanks", had slipped into something red and

tight and was promising a handsome young stranger that he hadn't seen anything until he had seen her "sticky toffee pudding". Thankfully, he never did; it would have been incest, as the story turned out. Nevertheless, it was something of a relief when Macbeth's tongue sandwiches turned out to be two bits of white sliced with nothing worse than a bit of mad cow in-between.

*S*uch relentlessly flirtatious fare could become tedious, were it not for some wonderful acting and generous dollops of highly photogenic Scottish scenery. The combination is such a winning one that you forgive the occasional lapse, such as a slapstick finale at sea that will have given the local coastguard nightmares for years to come and a comic subplot that I am sure was borrowed from somewhere else. Accidentally feeding his cattle with

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

marijuana, rather than cattle-cake, had left Lachlan McCrae with "a bye full of very happy helpers". With the sort of bad news they have got coming, they'll probably start smoking it soon.

Life was never like that in post-war Tannochbrae, although for last night's opening episode of a new series of *Dr Finlay* you got the distinct impression that its makers rather wished it was. From the

moment we began with a dream sequence of Dr Cameron stumbling through some misty Scottish countryside towards an alarming encounter with a mysterious hooded figure, it was clear this was to be no ordinary episode.

It was not. Alarmed by his dream and alarmed still further when he saw the same hooded figure on the back of a wagon of itinerant Irish potato pickers, Dr Cameron spent much of the episode doing a fair impersonation of Private Fraser in *Dad's Army*.

"There are still some things you don't interfere with," he moaned. Such as Janet, I thought.

Meanwhile, back at the other subplot, Dr Finlay (David Rintoul) had got stuck at the 'r's in his medical dictionary. Was it typhoid or typhus, that the Brigadier was suffering from? Turned out to be a rare, non-infectious form of the latter. Good news for the diagnostic skills of Dr Finlay, but had

news for the Brigadier. He died of a heart attack shortly afterwards.

The two stories came together in traditional manner, with the villagers of Tannochbrae convinced that it was the Irish work-gang spreading typhus. "We wouldn't be the first tattle-takers to be roasted alive," said Molly, as she showed Dr Cameron the big padlock with which the farmer locked his workers into his barn. And thanks to the good doctor they were not the last, either. By now on friendly terms even with the mysterious hooded figure (name of Banshee, nice woman), Dr Cameron set about the torch-wielding mob with a pitchfork. "They haven't even got the decency to wear their black-shirts outside their seminits!" Now there is a word you don't often see twice in a television review.

Anyway, the Irish were all

gratitude and fiddles. Molly prom-

ised him "the high jinks" but Dr Cameron, being a television Scotsman, preferred to get very drunk and fall into several puddles. Which is how, dear reader, he and his combinations came to be parted. Told you it was a long story.

Finally, there was relief for those who have found Lois Lane's new haircut just a little too sensible to make *The New Adventures of Superman* (BBC1, Saturday) quite the fun it used to be. A red kryptonite laser turned her into Ultra Woman. "Does that mean I have to wear glasses?" she asked her permanently bespectacled beau, Clark Kent. Nope, but it did mean she had to wear just the cutest little caped outfit, complete with fuchsia pink face-mask. What else? Oh yes, she asked Clark to marry her and he said yes. Sensible chap.

• Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (22468)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (53739)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (724648)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7462130)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (1522282) 10.30 Good Morning (s) (10915)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6225333)
12.05pm Room for Improvement, Denise Waterman, and Sean Rafferty presents the roving DIY series (s) (603623)

12.35 **NEW** Going for Gold, The ebullient Henry Kelly returns with another series of his entertaining general knowledge quiz with European contestants (s) (314081)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (568265) 1.30 Regional News and weather (s) (4933178)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44905642)
2.00 Columbo (r) (Ceefax) (49957)

3.20 Playdays (r) (s) (104536) 3.50 Badger and Badger (r) (s) (70517) 4.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (s) (170951) 4.10 Fudge (Ceefax) (s) (1423623) 4.35 P.O.T. (Ceefax) (s) (563333) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (s) (1346284) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (1542588)

5.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (496994)

6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (36)

6.30 Regional News magazines (86)

7.00 That's Shortbreadness, Mike Smith returns with the entertainment quiz, Joining him tonight are Lee Hurst, Susan Kyd, Les Dennis, and Ainsley Harriott (Ceefax) (s) (47178)

7.30 Watchdog, A special programme featuring the best of this year's motor stories (Ceefax) (s) (72)

8.00 EastEnders (Ceefax) (s) (3926)

8.30 Crime Beat, Street robbery is the crime Britain fears the most, even though it is rare. Martin Lewis reports on the use of surveillance cameras (Ceefax) (s) (2333)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5772)

9.20 Panorama, A look at Britain's relationship with one of the world's most autocratic regimes — Saudi Arabia (Ceefax) (268573)

10.15 FILM: Splitting Hairs (1992) with Eddie, John Cleese and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Feable comedy. Tommy Patel, brought up by Pakistani parents, discovers he is the heir to a fortune. Directed by Robert Young (1219913)

11.40 FILM: Nine with Barry Norman. Barry Norman reviews Woody Allen's Mighty Aphrodite, with Helena Bonham Carter; Broken Arrow, with John Travolta; and Sergeant Bilko, with Steve Martin (Ceefax) (s) (746226)

12.10am The Road to Golgotha, The Betrayal, Rob Duncan visits the China clay quarries of Cornwall to reflect on the betrayal of Jesus by Judas (s) (5615802)

12.25 FILM: Young Dillinger (1965, b/w) with Nick Adams and Mary Anne Moyle. John Dillinger and his girlfriend are keen to get married. Desperate for cash, they attempt a daring raid on her father's business. Directed by Terry O. Morse (181260)

2.05 Weather (s) (188647)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Physics (7070178) 6.25 Databases (702913) 6.50 Ancient Athens (8066555) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4150178)

7.30 Christopher Crocodile (r) (7792645) 7.35 Postman Pat (r) (9973081) 7.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates (Ceefax) (s) (412807) 8.15 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (Ceefax) (7265081) 8.40 Blue Peter (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6983265) 9.05 Mighty Max (s) (7489079) 9.30 Active (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6224739) 10.25 Star Trek (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4925836)

10.50 The Tktk (197888) 11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6158333)

12.00 **NEW** Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (1991)

12.30pm Working Lunch (40555)

1.00 Postman Pat (r) (4215948)

1.15 Milestones in Science and Engineering (r) (42147623)

1.30 Brazilian Grand Prix (r) (s) (9008772)

2.10 Rugby Union — the Daily Mail Schools Day (s) (435197)

3.35 News (Ceefax) (2327352)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (7) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (7) 4.50 Esther: Is Cooking Dead? (s) (s) (5284)

5.20 The Wartime Kitchen and Garden, Head gardener Harry Dodson and cook Ruth Mott recreate the home front of the Second World War (r) (Ceefax) (18) (65)

6.00 FILM: Seven Faces of Dr Leo (1964) with Tony Randall and Barbara Jefford. An oriental magician arrives in Abalone in the Old West and sets about fighting wrongs. Directed by George Pal (Ceefax) (43665975)

7.35 The Phil Silvers Show, Classic American comedy (r) (b/w) (39394)

8.00 **NEW** Horizon: Fallout from Chernobyl (Ceefax) (s) (72081)

8.30 Coronation Street (1991)

9.00 **NEW** The X-Files Squeeze, Scully is assigned to track down a serial killer whose victims are all killed inside locked rooms. With David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (r) (Ceefax) (s) (287807)

9.45 This Life: Living Dangerously, (3/11) Drama series about a group of law college friends who wind up working and living together in London (Ceefax) (s) (282772)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (560823)

11.15 Acting With... Richard Wilson (Ceefax) (s) (528288)

12.00 Midnight Hour (s) (94550)

12.30pm-7.15 The Learning Zone (s) (70194)

Richard Wilson as teacher (11.15pm)

11.15 Acting With... Richard Wilson, Do You Believe It? (Ceefax) (s) (528288)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (59450)

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